BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 42 | BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 30 | PRICE ₹5*

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDING 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Iran declares temporary closure of Strait of Hormuz for live fire drills in a show of force as its negotiators hold another round of talks with US over N-program, P 18

AI IMPACT SUMMIT

सर्वजन हिताय | सर्वजन सुखाय

WELFARE FOR ALL | HAPPINESS FOR ALL

February 16-20, 2026 | New Delhi, India

Making AI **Affordable, Safe and Inclusive**

Inauguration by

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

February 19, 2026 | 10:00 AM | Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Watch the event LIVE on

43 years after conviction, HC acquits 3 men

Allahabad high court recently acquitted three men in their 70s who were convicted 43 years ago in a 1982 dacoity case, setting aside convictions recorded in 1983 by a special sessions court in UP's Badaun district, reports **Rajesh Kumar Pandey**. The court ruled that the prosecution's evidence was weak, incorrectly appreciated at trial, and riddled with inconsistencies, entitling the appellants to benefit of doubt. **P 12**

Know Karuna Karnataka?

SCAN THE **O!**

Scan the QR & answer the quiz question. Correct answer will be revealed tomorrow!

Yesterday's answer: U R Ananthamurthy

Def, tech ties with France get a boost as Modi hosts Macron

Relationship Vital For Global Stability: PM

Times News Network

India's relationship with France — its most important strategic partner in Europe — received another boost on Tuesday with the two countries upgrading their ties to a special global strategic partnership, as PM Modi hosted French President Emmanuel Macron for bilateral talks. Macron was in Mumbai ahead of his participation in the AI summit in the capital, to jointly inaugurate with Modi the India-France Year of Innovation that both countries are celebrating.

Announcing the decision to elevate the partnership after the bilateral meeting, Modi said the New Delhi-Paris relationship is not just strategic but, in today's turbulent era, also a partnership for global stability and global progress.

Both sides announced 20 other outcomes from the talks, including four in defence and several others in critical and emerging technologies.

"From Rafale jets to submarines, we are expanding defence cooperation," said Macron, adding that the bilateral relationship was based on trust and ambition. He also asserted that India and France did not want to be subjected to any form of hegemony.

French President Macron, who arrived past midnight in Mumbai, went for a run (left) Tuesday morning on Marine Drive. He and PM Modi attended the inauguration of the India-France Year of Innovation along with Macron's wife Brigitte

▶ Macron invites Modi to G7 summit in France, P 12

▶ Rajnath: Up India-made component in Rafales, P 12

▶ IT services will vanish by 2030: Vinod Khosla, P 14

▶ Multipolar world, P 12

Tata-Airbus to assemble H125 copters in Kolar

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) on Tuesday inaugurated India's first private-sector helicopter final assembly line for the Airbus H125 at Vemagal in Kolar, marking a major boost to indigenous rotary-wing manufacturing. PM Modi and French President Macron virtually launched the facility from Mumbai.

▶ Rajnath: Raise India-made component in Rafale deal, P 12

The first India-built H125 is expected to be delivered in early 2027 and will be available for export within South Asia. The H125 is the world's best-selling single-engine helicopter and the only helicopter to have landed on Mount Everest. **P 12**

PM to IT firms: Go beyond services, make AI products

Times News Network

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Tuesday called upon the Indian IT sector to lead not just in service delivery but in building AI products, platforms and solutions that work for India and the world.

FULL COVERAGE: P 14, 19, 20

▶ EDIT PAGE: AI Isn't The Danger, We Are, P 16

"India's IT sector has been the backbone of our services exports and a key driver of economic growth. AI presents both a tremendous opportunity and a challenge for this sector... The fundamental shift is that AI isn't replacing the IT sector. It is transforming it," he told ANI.

▶ Force multiplier, P 19

Apologies for Day 1 issues, says Vaishnaw

Organisers on Tuesday sought to remove glitches faced by visitors on Day 1 of the AI Impact Summit. "If anybody faced any problems yesterday, my apologies for that," IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

He added that govt had taken feedback seriously. "The entire team is working day and night to organise the world's biggest AI summit, and we will make every effort to make sure it is enjoyable for all of you," the minister said, adding that a war room had been set up to deal with all issues 24x7. TNN

Tina Ambani skips ED summons again

Actor Tina Ambani, wife of Anil Ambani of Reliance group, skipped the ED summons for the second time on Tuesday. It was not known if she furnished some grounds to the investigating officer for her non-appearance. Anil has been summoned for questioning on Wednesday. **P 5**

Tarique sworn in B'desh PM, Modi invites him to India

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: PM Modi has invited BNP chief Tarique Rahman, who was sworn in as the new PM of Bangladesh on Tuesday, to visit India with his family as the neighbours look at a "reset" of bilateral relations, strained during the 18-month tenure of the Muhammad Yunus-led interim govt.

In a letter, handed over to Tarique by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Modi congratulated Rahman and BNP.

The new govt is not going to stick to Yunus's insistence on the return of Sheikh Hasina as the condition for resumption of normalcy, and has indicated that though it will not stop seeking her extradition, the "issue won't be a roadblock".

▶ Become catalysts, P 18

'Quotes from non-existent verdicts': CJI alarmed by AI use to draft petitions in SC

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: While India hosts an international AI summit, Supreme Court said on Tuesday it is alarmed by the fact that advocates are using artificial intelligence to draft petitions containing quotes from non-existent judgments that make judges' adjudicatory role more cumbersome.

CJI Surya Kant said there are several instances of such non-existent judgments having been cited in petitions, which were detected by Justice Dipankar Datta. "There are instances where the petition quotes several paragraphs from a judgment of SC. But on scrutiny it was found that these paragraphs do not exist in the judgment," the judge said. CJI Kant said, "It makes the judges' task more difficult..."

> Now, they (judges) must not only go through the pleadings, but also scrutinise the authenticity of every paragraph quoted from cited judgments
> —CJI Surya Kant

> A non-existent judgment Mercy vs Mankind was cited
> —Justice BV Nagarathna

Recently, Bombay high court imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on Heart and Soul Entertainment Ltd for submitting AI-generated arguments citing a non-existent case.

▶ Great responsibility, P 14

Lilly A MEDICINE COMPANY

MY WEIGHT DOESN'T NEED BLAME.[1]

I JUST NEED THE RIGHT SUPPORT.

We often mistake obesity or weight struggles as a lifestyle issue or personal failure. Obesity is a chronic disease,[2] and complex factors beyond our control involving - hormones, genetics, and metabolism can cause biological resistance to weight loss.[3,4] If you feel like something is holding you back, then maybe your body is resisting weight loss, despite all the efforts you make.[5,6]

Have a weight loss conversation with a qualified doctor.[6,7]

OBESITY IS A DISEASE.[2] | CONSULT A DOCTOR, TODAY![6,7]

ObesityIsADisease.in

PP-LIR-IN-0000 | 30-1-2026
©2026 Eli Lilly and Company
Issued in Public Interest by Lilly, India

Disclaimer
The content provided herein is intended solely for health awareness and educational purposes and should be used responsibly and ethically. The content does not promote, advertise, or endorse any specific product, treatment or brand and is solely intended to raise awareness. The content is not a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment nor should it be construed as medical guidance or a treatment recommendation.
Always consult a qualified healthcare professional before making any health-related decisions. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of this content, medical knowledge and guidelines are continually evolving. Eli Lilly makes no representations or warranties regarding the completeness or accuracy of this content and shall not be liable for any consequences, losses, injuries or damages, direct or indirect, arising from the use, misuse, misinterpretation or inaccurate application of such content.
For adverse events and safety reporting, please reach out to in_gsc@lilly.com | For any additional information relating to Lilly products, please reach out to queries_india@lilly.com. | For further information about Lilly and Lilly products please contact us at the below address:
Eli Lilly and Company (India) Pvt. Ltd. | Plot No.32, Sector 32, Institutional Area, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana, India | +91-124-4742800 | www.lilly.india.in

References:
1. Daley, S. F., Ginsburg, O. M., & Ghosn, A. J. (2026). Overcoming stigma and bias in obesity management. In StatPearls [Internet]. StatPearls Publishing. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK557957/ | 2. World Health Organization. (2025, December 15). Obesity and overweight. [Fact sheet]. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/obesity-and-overweight | 3. Mac Lean PS, Jorgensen A, Dorton MA, Jackman MR. Biological mechanisms that promote weight regain following weight loss in obese humans. Physiol Behav. 2015;137:197-205. doi:10.1016/j.physbeh.2014.07.008 | 4. Ryan DH, Bartlett SM, Bulgin J, et al. Mechanisms of lost weight and long-term management of obesity. Med Clin North Am. 2018;102(1):183-197. doi:10.1016/j.mcna.2017.08.012 | 5. Greenway FL. Physiological adaptations to weight loss and factors favoring weight regain. Int J Obes (Lond). 2015;39(8):1188-1196. doi:10.1038/ijo.2015.59 | 6. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Overweight and obesity treatment. US Department of Health and Human Services. Updated March 24, 2022. Accessed October 6, 2024. https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/overweight-and-obesity/treatment

Vacant BDA sites: Slab-based penalties replace 10% levy

Revision Follows Complaints From Allottees

Nithya.Mandyam@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has revised the penalty imposed on owners who fail to construct houses within the stipulated five-year period under lease-cum-sale agreements. Moving away from the earlier flat 10% levy mooted in Sept 2024, the authority recently introduced a graded penalty structure ranging from 2.5% to 10%, depending on site size.

The move comes in the backdrop of criticism from site allottees, who maintained that a uniform penalty of 10% of the prevailing guidance value for vacant sites was too steep and did not take into account variations in site dimensions or individual financial constraints. Following public objections and representations, the matter was placed before the authority's board, which approved the revised slab-based structure.

A senior BDA official said, "There are many sites in the city where there is absolutely no construction, and earlier they were paying only Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh as penalty. When we increased the rate uniformly to 10%, there was strong opposition. After considering representations, we rationalised the structure. This revised slab system should benefit both the public and the authority. Whatever penalty is collected is utilised only for Bengaluru's development."

The official added, "The new system aims to bring proportionality, with smaller site owners benefiting the most from the reduced rates."

However, the revised penalty rates will not apply to allotments made in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout and Arkavathy Layout.

A notification issued by BDA on Feb 11 reads: "Incases where construction was completed after the five-year deadline, the penalty will be calculated based on the guidance value prevailing on the date of construction. If the guidance value for that period is unavailable, the rate mentioned in the lease-cum-sale agreement will be considered. In such cases, the marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR), along with an additional 2% interest, will be applied from the date of agreement. Alternatively, the penalty may be calculated based on the current guidance value and site area, with the lower of the two amounts being collected."

Allottees unwilling to pay the penalty may surrender their sites to BDA, with 12.5% of the amount paid being deducted and the balance refunded. Those who consent to pay must clear their dues within 60 days, failing which interest at SBI's MCLR plus 2% will apply. The authority clarified that the revised rates will not apply to those who have already paid the earlier 10% penalty; no refunds will be issued.

BDA commissioner P Manivannan emphasised that the move was not an individual decision but a collective one. "This is a decision of the board, represented by chairperson N A Haris."

Photo for representation

NO GOING BACK! As per Bangalore Development Authority, the new rates will not affect those site owners who have already paid the 10% penalty, and no refund will be provided

Revised penalty structure

- 20x30 sites (up to 600sqft) — 2.5% of guidance value
- 30x40 sites (601 to 1,200sqft) — 5%
- 40x60 sites (1,201 to 2,400sqft) — 7.5%
- 40x60 and above (2,401sqft and above) — 10%

CS student jumps to death from 13th floor of hostel

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A 20-year-old computer science and engineering student studying at GITAM, a deemed-to-be university, allegedly jumped to death from the 13th floor of the hostel building at Nagadenehalli, Doddaballapur, Monday afternoon.

The deceased is Nayana S V, a native of Sarjapur in Bengaluru Rural, and daughter of a farmer. Based on preliminary probe, police said Nayana made a video on her phone apologising to her parents before jumping to death. No death note was found on her or in the hostel room. A police officer said they are still trying to ascertain the exact reason for the suicide.

A senior cop said that around 1.30pm, Nayana walked into the corridor and jumped into the lift duct. A CCTV camera in the corridor captured her walking towards the duct passage and jumping. Students and hostel staff heard a huge noise and rushed to the spot to find Nayana dead.

The university management said one lift was already in use in the hostel building. Since the hostel was big and student strength higher, a second lift was being built from where Nayana jumped. Her father, Venkatesh, in his complaint, alleged the management had failed to take safety measures while constructing the lift, and did not prevent students from going near the duct. A case was registered against the management under BNS Section 106 (causing death by negligence).

If you are having suicidal thoughts or are in need of emotional support, call suicide-prevention helpline: Tele-Manas helpline: 14416 or 1800-89-14416, Sahai Helpline: 080-25497777)

Garbage disposal hit as villagers block 150 trucks

Nithya.Mandyam@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Garbage clearance in the city is likely to be affected from Wednesday, with residents of villages around Bellahalli waste processing and dumping yard in north Bengaluru blocking more than 150 trucks since Monday to protest the non-release of village development funds for nearly two years.

The trucks are stranded near the landfill site. The crisis is set to worsen from Thursday if the govt doesn't intervene and end the stalemate.

@BELLAHALLI LANDFILL

While the 30-acre Bellahalli handles waste from northern and eastern parts of Bengaluru, the city has five more landfills to receive nearly 4,000 tonnes of waste it generates every day: Mittaganahalli, Kasnur, Chikkanagnmangala, Kannahalli and Doddabidarakallu.

Officials said until the stranded trucks return from Bellahalli after unloading trash, garbage-disposal operations across Bengaluru cannot resume normally. Prolonged disruption could lead to a build-up of garbage in several areas. Pointing to the broken road infrastructure caused by non-stop movement of garbage-laden trucks, residents are demanding funds promised to the area as part of agreements linked to waste management activities.

"As per earlier understandings between the authorities and the local community, additional financial support was to be provided for infrastructure development and maintenance in view of the environmental and civic burden caused by continuous dumping of city waste," said Gangesh Manjunath, a resident of Bellahalli.

Authorities said until the stranded trucks return from Bellahalli after unloading trash, garbage-disposal operations cannot resume normally across Bengaluru

Residents argued that waste disposal operations have resulted in recurring public health concerns, including frequent outbreaks of infectious diseases. "Since money has not been released for two years, we've decided not to allow garbage-dumping," said Suresh Lingaraj, another resident. Several truck drivers confirmed the stand-off.

"We are aware of the issue and are in touch with local representatives. Talks will be held not later than Thursday to resolve the issue," an official said. "They requested us for Rs 600 crore for village development, but we granted Rs 90 crore. They are not happy with it. Waste collection might be partially affected," admitted a senior official of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd, while hinting that political pressure was making the negotiations tougher.

Goods train derails near Bidadi, daily commuters stuck for 5 hrs

Syed.Asif@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Hundreds of daily commuters between Bengaluru and Mysuru were stranded for more than five hours after an empty goods train derailed near Bidadi, an industrial outback 35km from Bengaluru, forcing cancellation of several trains on Tuesday evening.

The accident occurred between Ramanagara and Bidadi when the newly modified empty goods train went off the tracks around 5pm. While no human casualties were reported, the derailment brought rail traffic on the busy corridor to a halt, throwing travel plans into disarray for thousands who depend on Metro services along the route. Normal train services resumed by 10pm, according to South Western Railway. An inquiry into the cause of the derailment is under way.

The disruption led to the cancellation of multiple passenger services, including train nos. 06238, 06251 and 06280. Train no. 06235 (Bengaluru–Ashokapuram) was force-terminated at Kengeri, while KSR Bengaluru–Mysuru Express left at 7.35pm, an hour behind schedule.

Commuters most affected were those travelling to Channapatna, Maddur and Mandya, which dot the Mysuru route. Hundreds gathered at bus stops near Kengeri bus terminus, confused and anxious at once as they scrambled for alternative transport. Passengers said the disruption hit office-goers and students particularly hard. Many returning home after work or exams were forced to wait on roadsides with limited bus services available towards Mysuru. With no immediate options, several commuters were seen hitching a ride on private vehicles.

Railway authorities managed to clear the derailed train from the track around 8.55pm. Tickets were refunded to passengers whose trains were short-terminated at Kengeri. Additional stops were added to Chamundi Express to help regular commuters travelling towards Mysuru. Despite these measures, the sudden disruption underscored the heavy reliance on suburban rail services along the Bengaluru–Mysuru corridor.

Syed Asif

ALTERNATIVE: Many were forced to wait on the roadside for buses

Yelahanka to house mega coach terminal

Bengaluru: Stating that Devanahalli is too far from the city centre, the railways has decided to relocate India's proposed mega coach terminal to Yelahanka in north Bengaluru.

Union minister of state for railways V Somanna Tuesday said the terminal was originally planned at Devanahalli, but the distance from Bengaluru and logistical challenges made the location unsuitable. The project has since been shifted to Yelahanka, near the Rail Wheel Factory, which is considered more accessible and better connected to the city's rail network.

The mega coach terminal, estimated to cost Rs 6,354 crores, is expected to enhance Bengaluru's rail infrastructure. Somanna said tenders will be floated soon. On Tuesday, the minister flagged off stoppages for four pairs of express trains at Nagundahalli station and inaugurated a railway overbridge between Vijayanagar and Padmarajanapura built at a cost of Rs 14 crore. ™

DIESEL TO ELECTRIC Shift Boosts Railways

SWR ELECTRIFIES 96% OF ITS NETWORK, REPORTS MAJOR SAVINGS

South Western Railway (SWR) zone achieved **96% electrification** of its network by 2025-end

The zone, which covers most of Karnataka, saved at least **Rs 1,345cr** over the past four financial years after shifting from diesel to electric traction

SAVINGS & DIESEL REDUCTION (2022-23 to 2025-26, up to Feb)

186 passenger trains converted from **diesel** to **electric** traction, including **56** in current fiscal

Diesel saved: **1,50,573 kilolitres** of high-speed diesel

Diesel saved in 2025-26 **52,940 kilolitres**

> Electrification of the Indian Railways network has been taken up on mission mode. So far, about 99.4% of the broad-gauge network has been electrified. Electrification of the remaining network has been taken up
> **— Ashwini Vaishnaw** | RAILWAY MINISTER

ELECTRIFICATION STATUS

Karnataka	97%
India	93.4%

- Karnataka is among **five states/UTs** yet to achieve full electrification
- Electrification is measured in **route kilometres (RKM)**, counting multiple tracks as one route

SWR network electrification

89% Electrification of operational routes

Total SWR network: **3,721.5 RKM**

Electrified: **3,385 RKM**, as of Dec 2025

Key diesel-operated sections

Ginigera-Sindhanur: **84.6km**

Talkal – Lingasandugi: **45.5km**

Bagalkot – Kudachi: **38km**

Rayadurga – Dodduhalli: **81.7km**

Recently completed project

55km Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road section electrified in Dec

- Difficult ghats terrain section
- Improves potential for **Vande Bharat** between Bengaluru and Mangaluru

– Text by Anesh S

THE NUMBERS, YEAR ON YEAR

Financial year	Savings (in ₹ crore)	Passenger trains moved to electric	Diesel saved (in kl)
2022-23	180	36	8,419
2023-24	191	50	24,305
2024-25	515	44	54,909
2025-26 (till Feb 12, 2026)	459	56	52,940

— Source: Indian Railways

State weighs up capping charges at pvt hospitals

Times News Network

Bengaluru: With frequent complaints from citizens about the rising cost of healthcare at private hospitals, the health department is mulling a cap on the price of basic procedures in private facilities to bring in some uniformity.

Health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, speaking Tuesday at the culmination of a 15-day jatha for Right to Health, held across 31 districts since Feb 2, said he would soon move a proposal in this regard before the cabinet.

Expressing concern over the increasing corporatisation of private healthcare, Rao said the govt should set a benchmark for medical procedure costs. "We don't want to touch the complicated, high-end procedures for now. But basic procedures should at least have some uniformity in their pricing. Our department has put together the proposal on this, which I'm planning to take to the chief minister and the cabinet in the next two weeks," the minister said. He added once the proposal is approved, a committee including private stakeholders will be formed to provide inputs on the matter.

ALMANAC (18.2.2026)

Kanbha Masa 6 - Shri Vishwavasu Nama Samvatsara - Uttarayana - Shishira Ritu - Tithi: Phalguna Sukla Pratipadh, 16-58 Nakshatra: Satabhisaj 8, 23.16 Yoga: Siva 8, 22-45, 29 Shaban | Kali Day 1872624

Rahu Kalam Noon — 1.30pm

— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

Preserving history: BU museums to get facelift

Snuthy.Susan@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Neolithic tools of 3000 BC, a 1937 elephant fetus, 12th-century palm leaves and manuscripts of Muddanna Kavya; all these treasures at Bangalore University's departmental museums will get a new lease of life as the varsity is revamping its museums in the zoology, geology, botany, history and Kannada departments with modern facilities.

The modernisation is being done under Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), for which the university was awarded Rs 100 crore. A sum of Rs 1 crore will be used for this purpose. The museums will be upgraded with advanced infrastructure, improved conservation facilities and modern digital interfaces. "The purpose is to give these long-standing academic repositories a new identity aligned with global university museum standards," said Prof Ashok Hanjagi, coordinator for renovation, PM-USHA scheme. There are thousands of specimens in each of the museums.

As part of the renovation, old and deteriorated wooden and metal windows will be replaced with modern UPVC window units. These UPVC installations will improve insulation and reduce dust and moisture ingress, which are essential for preserving archival materials. Similarly, Stone Polymer Composite (SPC) or durable vinyl flooring, best for controlled museum environments, will be used. All the museums will be equipped with interactive digital information panels. "The panels will transform traditional static displays into dynamic knowledge systems by providing detailed information about specimens, thus enhancing experiential learning and public outreach," said Hanjagi.

Pics: TOI

IN THE WORKS: The museums will be upgraded with advanced infrastructure, improved conservation facilities and modern digital interfaces. Old & deteriorated wooden and metal windows (right) will be replaced with modern UPVC window units (model, left)

What and where

The zoology museum will receive custom-built display racks designed specifically for entomology and osteology specimens, for systematic arrangement and safe storage of delicate insect collections and skeletal materials. The museum has 4,000+ specimens, including age-old osteology specimens, stages of the human foetus, skulls of big cats, hippopotamuses and walruses, and corals.

In the botany museum, these racks will support organised preservation of herbarium sheets, plant specimens, and botanical models. Similarly, the geology museum racks will be designed to securely display over 5,000 specimens, including archean rocks, petrified woods, and ammonite fossils.

The history museum will get double-sided acrylic-mounted display panels that will maximise display space while improving visitor engagement. The museum has replica models of Indus seals from 2600 BC, palm leaves from 12 AD, Neolithic tools and terracotta from 10,000 BC to 3,000 BC, and coins from the ancient to the modern period, among other valuables. The museum also has a gallery with 60 photographs related to Sardar Patel's integration of the Indian states.

Kannada to go digital

The Kannada department's digitisation project is another important feature. Around 3,000 age-old Kannada manuscripts and scripts will be digitised, some of them as early as the 9th century. "The digital archive will play a crucial role in safeguarding Karnataka's linguistic heritage for future generations. These initiatives will strengthen teaching-learning processes, support advanced research, and transform departmental museums into vibrant academic and public knowledge centres. The modernisation will also enhance the university's national and global academic visibility while preserving invaluable scientific, historical, and cultural collections," said Jayakara Shetty, vice-chancellor, BU.

Members of the public can write to the departments to visit these museums.

B'luru schools issue advisories after strangers offer kids sweets

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Following a slew of such incidents, some schools in the city have issued advisories to children to be cautious of strangers approaching them.

Bishop Cotton Boys' School issued a circular after a parent reported that a stranger had approached a student near the school van and offered chocolates. The child refused, and the individual left when the van driver noticed him. "In view of this, parents are requested to remain vigilant and ensure close supervision of children during arrival and dispersal times. Students are advised not to interact with strangers under any circumstances," the school stated in the circular.

The school has also instructed its security personnel to be extra vigilant and closely monitor student movement both within and immediately outside its premises. Authorities are currently monitoring the situation in the surrounding area. Additional precautionary measures are also being implemented to enhance safety, the school told parents. It asked parents to promptly report any suspicious activity to the school office.

However, a senior police officer said they could not get concrete information on the incident. "We've been interacting with parents, students, teaching staff, and others for a few days, but no one claims to have witnessed the incident. Everyone says they heard about it from others. Still, we are increasing police patrolling near the institution, interacting with students and parents, and telling them what one should do on seeing strangers approach students," he said.

NEED FOR VIGILANCE

Meanwhile, National Public School, Banashankari, also issued an advisory to parents. "We had a parent report an incident near an apartment complex wherein an unknown individual in a van allegedly approached children and offered chocolates. The person left when others noticed him. So, we've issued an advisory asking students not to accept anything from strangers and to inform adults — the school, parents or a security guard — if they come across anything like that. It is important we take caution," said principal Jayanti Nair.

Apartments have also sent out messages to residents asking parents to remain in vigilant during student drop-off and pick-up hours.

"It is important to educate children about what a stranger means. They should be made aware of the common ways a stranger might approach them, offering chocolates, telling lies like, 'your parents sent me to pick you up'... It is also important that van drivers escort the smaller kids to the van if it is parked outside the campus," said Purva Ranade, a counsellor.

EXAM COUNTDOWN BEGINS

Schools, students put best foot forward

9L To Appear for SSLC; 7L for II PU

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Around 9 lakh students will appear for SSLC and 7.1 lakh for II PU exams this year, which will be held from March 18 and Feb 28, respectively. For the first time, the department of school education and literacy announced the result dates in advance. The results are likely to be announced on April 24 for SSLC and April 7 for II PU exams.

On Tuesday, a review meeting was held with several departments involved in the process. "We are all set for the exams. We request students to come for the tests confident and stress-free," said primary and secondary education minister Madhu Bangarappa.

Final admit cards for II PU examination are available. Those for SSLC examination will be issued in the first week of March.

Webcasting, which was introduced in 2024, will continue under the leadership of district commissioners. On examination days, a 200-metre area around examination centres will be declared a restricted area. Xerox/cyber/computer centres will be closed in the restricted area.

"We took precautionary measures to prevent rumours about question paper leaks. Action will be initiated against those spreading false information and misleading students. I request students to stay away from social media during exams," the minister said.

Exam preparation is on in full swing in schools. Blueprints, model question papers, question paper banks, previous year question papers along with key answers, and centum papers are available. Parents' meetings are held to inform them about the learning progress of students. Students appearing for the exams are allowed free bus travel upon showing their admit card. The minister requested private bus operators to chip in, if needed, especially where there are few KSRTC buses in coastal and Malnad regions. District commissioners were asked to make necessary arrangements for students travelling from faraway places during exams.

This year, the issue of unrecognised schools will not arise, said the minister, as the deadline to renew recognition was extended until March 31. Hence, recognition from the previous year will be considered for permitting students to write the exam.

In II PU, the highest number of candidates registered are from science (2.9 lakh), followed by 2.1 lakh in commerce. "Enrolment for arts is reducing. So, we decided to increase science and commerce sections at govt colleges," he said.

Syed Asif, TOI

ALL SET: School students are all set for their CBSE paper at examination centres in Bengaluru. CBSE class 10, ICSE class 10 and ISC class 12 exams kicked off Tuesday

Details	II PU	SSLC
Date	Feb 26-March 17	March 18-April 2
Timing	10am-1pm	10am-1.15pm
Students	7,10,363	9,02,889
Freshers	6,46,801	8,12,855
Repeaters	56,540	62,845
Private candidates	13,022	27,189
Schools/colleges registered	5,374	15,941
Exam centres	1,217	2,871
Result date	April 7	April 24
Exam 2	April 25-May 9	May 18-25
Exam 2 results	May 22	June 1

PU STREAMS

Streams	Students
Science	2,92,645
Commerce	2,11,174
Arts	1,42,082

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board set up a helpline for exam-related stress. Students can contact 080-23310075/76

Man kills dad with baseball bat over property dispute

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Munikrishna and Mohan Kumar

Bengaluru: A 70-year-old man who was attacked allegedly by his son with a baseball bat over a property dispute died while undergoing treatment in a hospital Tuesday morning.

The victim, Munikrishna, a resident of Doopanahalli in Indiranagar, was a retired BMTC conductor. The accused are his elder son, Mohan Kumar, and younger one, Gajendra.

The assault happened between 10.15pm and 10.30pm on Feb 14. Indiranagar police arrested Mohan on attempt-to-murder charges and later converted it into a murder case following Munikrishna's death.

Cops said Munikrishna was attacked near Muthyalamma temple in Doopanahalli when he took his pet dog for a walk after dinner.

Munikrishna's younger daughter-in-law, Divya A., 32, told police she and her husband, Gajendra, lived with him on the first floor of a four-storey building, while Mohan resided with his family on the third floor.

According to Divya's complaint, Munikrishna left home for a walk. She received a phone call from security guard, Kiran, at 10.30pm, saying Munikrishna was attacked by his sons, Mohan and Gajendra, near the temple, and he had collapsed on the road. She alleged both Mohan and Gajendra assaulted Munikrishna with the baseball bat.

DCP (east) Vikram Amate said Mohan was arrested and the attack was over a property dispute. "We received the death memo from the hospital Tuesday morning, and the case has been converted into that of murder."

A senior officer said Munikrishna owned three buildings in and around Indiranagar and land in Bogepalli. He made a will, leaving the land to his wife, Manjula. He also gave property to Mohan's two daughters and a portion of it to Divya. Mohan and Gajendra were not happy with it, police said, adding Gajendra's role in the attack is yet to be ascertained.

Police warn parents against giving vehicles to minors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Following two major accidents on the outskirts of the city that claimed the lives of 12 youths, police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh warned parents and vehicle owners of strict action if they give their vehicles to children or youths who do not have a driving licence.

SPECIAL DRIVE

Police registered 620 cases for minors riding vehicles in the last three years, 1,450 cases of wheeling, and 349 cases against parents or vehicle owners.

Police have started a special drive to keep a check on the violations.

JCP (traffic), Karthik Reddy, said once a case is booked, vehicles will be seized and the parents or vehicle owners will be produced before the court.

"We booked wheeling cases in the past, and those involved in the previous cases are being monitored. We request parents to keep watch on their children's activities and do not allow them to ride or drive. We also appeal to educational institutions to create awareness among underage students not to ride or drive, or without a DL," he added.

Man uses spare key to enter home, steals gold

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 43-year-old freelance photographer was arrested for allegedly stealing gold ornaments worth Rs 55 lakh from a software engineer's house using a spare key left in a shoe rack outside.

The accused, Kiran, a resident of Varthur Kodi, used to run a photo studio that shut down due to financial losses and later worked as an event photographer.

According to police, the engineer left home at Nagondanahalli on Feb 11 after locking the door and keeping the key in the rack for his children returning from school. When he came back in the evening, he found the door open and 348 grams of gold ornaments missing from a cupboard.

Police checked CCTV footage, traced Kiran and arrested him on Feb 13. He confessed to have noticed the spare key kept in the rack while looking for a house in the building. Police found the stolen jewellery in his residence.

Police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said residents should not leave house keys in shoe racks, flowerpots or common passages.

Happy ending: Family forgets 4-yr-old in cab, Hoysala traces & rescues child

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A quick reaction from patrolling police personnel and technology helped a family get back their four-year-old boy they'd left in the back seat of a neight-seater cab in the city.

The incident took place on the night of Feb 14, when a five-member family booked the cab online from Iskcon in Rajajinagar to their home in Ponnappa Layout, Hennur. Among the five were a mother in her 30s and her four-year-old son. After boarding the vehicle, the boy, who was asleep, was moved to the last seat, which was empty.

After reaching the destination around 8.15pm, the family got down in a hurry, and the cabbie, Kiran Kumar, drove away after collecting his fare.

Meanwhile, the boy's mother asked her cousin where the child was. Astonished, the cousin replied she thought he was with her. The family then realised they'd left the child behind in the cab.

The family tried to contact the driver through the call centre, but in vain. Then, they called the police control room (112), and a patrolling Hoysala vehicle reached the spot by 8.30pm. ASI Manjappa Koppal and head constable Satish Kumar first collected CCTV footage from a neighbouring house.

"From the footage, they noted the registration number of the cab. Then, using the mobile crime and criminal tracking network system app, they found a mobile number connected with the cab. The number belonged to the cab owner. The owner quickly shared driver Kiran Kumar's mobile number," Manjappa Koppal said.

"We called Kiran. He was around 9km away from Ponnappa Layout and was ferrying a three-member family in his cab. First, he said there's no child in the car and passengers, too, confirmed they hadn't seen a boy in the car. We asked him to stop the vehicle and take a closer look in the back seat. We then immediately heard him say, 'Yes, sir, a child is asleep here'. I told him not to wake up the child, instead drive back to the location that I had shared with him. Kumar feared that he could be arrested for kidnapping the boy. We assured him that we knew it was an accidental case and that he had no role in it. In 15 minutes, Kumar arrived at the spot, and the mother was elated on getting her child back," Koppal said.

Constable chases miscreant, recovers gold chain worth ₹6L

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A constable chased and caught a chain snatcher with the help of some passersby, and recovered a gold chain worth Rs 6 lakh from him.

The incident occurred on Feb 5 evening at Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, north Bengaluru, when the miscreant, Syed Jaffer Pasha, 24, attacked a woman near her house and started running with her chain. The woman shouted for help and on hearing her, assistant constable **Hanumanta Putani** chased the thief, asking passersby to join him.

Putani, attached to City Armed Reserve (CAR), was heading home after night shift when the incident occurred. "After chasing him for around 800 metres, Putani managed to grab him by the shirt collar. As the thief fell, other residents held onto him firmly," a senior officer said.

Police commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh congratulated Putani Tuesday for catching the chain snatcher.

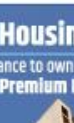
Nigerian peddler caught third time

Bengaluru: Central Crime Branch sleuths arrested a 36-year-old Nigerian on charges of drug peddling and recovered 5kg of MDMA worth over Rs 5 crore.

Police records show Ibrahim Baikooku was earlier arrested by Himachal Pradesh cops in 2019 and by Maratthahalli police in 2024 on similar charges.

In another arrest, drug peddler Oc Okiol, 30, a Senegalese living in Hasker, was caught with MDMA, cocaine, hydro ganja, LSD pills and strips, all worth Rs 1.5 crore. TNN

Speeding biker kills bank employee



Bengaluru: Stepping out to fetch food during lunch break turned tragic for 27-year-old bank employee **Yogeshwari**. She was crossing Dr Rajkumar Road in Rajajinagar Monday afternoon with a food packet when she was hit by a speeding Bullet motorcycle.

The biker, identified as **Deepak**, a student from Ulsoor, was said to be riding at high speed, police said. Both Yogeshwari and Deepak suffered severe head injuries. Yogeshwari succumbed around 9pm, while Deepak is undergoing treatment at the hospital. TNN

Principal, 45, arrested for abetting Kannada teacher's suicide in Bidadi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 45-year-old principal with a private international school in Bidadi was arrested on charges of abetting the suicide of a 37-year-old staff teacher, who taught Kannada to high school students.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Prashanth Lokare, principal of Basaveshwara International School, Timmegowdanadoddi, was sent to judicial custody at Ramanagara district prison. A complaint was filed by the woman's husband, Prof Vinod Kumar V Nandaragi from Amritha College of Engineering. "My wife, Saraswati, was found hanging in the bedroom on Feb 13. In her death note, she accused Prashant Lokare and another teacher of humiliating her for questioning the corporal punishment given to our son," the complaint read.

The couple's two sons studied in the same school, and the elder one was allegedly beaten up by the class teacher. "Saraswati questioned the class teacher about the punishment and why she repeatedly beat him up, and the matter reached Lokare. However, Lokare humiliated and insulted Saraswati. Unable to withstand the insults, Saraswati returned home and died by suicide," the complaint read.

Case reveals casual approach of complainant, says court

▶ Continued from page 1

"The court pointed to procedural lapses, including that there was no inquiry under Section 202 of CrPC, which is mandated where the accused is outside the court's territorial jurisdiction. This revealed "a very casual approach" of the complainant in not insisting on such an inquiry before summons was issued to the accused (Rahul), the judge said.

In his petition, Rahul Gandhi said there was no prima facie material placed by the prosecution to prove the charges against him and that the complainant failed to produce any documentary evidence to show he circulated the alleged advertisement on his Twitter handle.

17-yr-old gets robotic knee replacement; docs note spike in cases among youths

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: A 17-year-old boy recently underwent robotic-assisted knee replacement surgery in the city, turning the spotlight on youngsters who, too, are getting affected by deteriorating bone health, an issue earlier seen only among people over the age of 60.

The teenager's surgery was necessitated by osteonecrosis, a severely painful condition in which bone death occurs in the knee joint due to disrupted blood supply. Doctors at Apollo Hospitals say while this case is extremely rare, knee replacement surgeries among younger adults in their 30s and 40s are becoming common as patients seek to maintain an active lifestyle without being limited by chronic pain or disability.

Doctors point to strenuous physical activity and high-impact sports as contributing factors to joint degeneration among younger adults.

In the case of the 17-year-old boy, doctors noted the disease progressed significantly over a year and his quality of life deteriorated due to limited mobility. They, therefore, opted for robotic-assisted surgery in his left knee.

Dr Rajashekhar KT, lead orthopaedic surgeon at Apollo Hospitals, said this was one-of-a-kind case. "In rheumatoid arthritis, delaying treatment can destroy the joint due to autoimmune reaction. I recently performed knee replacement surgery on a 38-year-old with severe rheumatoid arthritis," he said.

Dr Prakash BL, senior consultant orthopaedic and joint replacement surgeon at Hosmat Hospitals, said surgeons are increasingly treating patients in their 40s and early 50s, and in rare cases, late 30s or younger adults, when conservative treatment fails. "There is no strict age limit. The decision depends on the severity of pain and overall quality of life," he noted.

According to orthopaedic specialists, two major factors are contributing to knee replacement surgeries: advancements in surgical technology and earlier onset of joint degeneration. Dr Prashanth R, co-founder and director of orthopaedics at TriLife Hospital, said, "In younger individuals, common causes of knee damage include inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, early-onset osteoarthritis, post-traumatic arthritis and obesity-related joint degeneration, where excess body weight accelerates cartilage wear and tear."

How to keep your knees stronger?

▶ Maintain healthy weight to avoid stress on knees

▶ Strengthen supporting muscles

▶ Use proper training techniques

▶ Avoid prolonged poor posture

▶ Seek early professional help

24 CA sites allotted at low rates for Cong Bhavans

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

BONHOMIE: Union minister V Somanna with Karnataka minister Zameer Ahmed Khan and PC Mohan, MP, in Bengaluru, Tuesday

Bengaluru: Two dozen civic amenity (CA) sites across several urban local bodies were allotted to Congress Bhavan Trust to build party offices at district and taluk levels, data from municipal administrations and urban development departments show.

Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, also state Congress president, has set a target of constructing 100 Congress Bhavans in the state and had planned to lay foundation stones for several of them on the day he completed six years as KPCC president.

Of the 24 sites, municipal administration department allotted 12 plots valued at over Rs 5 crore, while the urban development department allotted another 12 plots worth more than Rs 12 crore.

BJP has criticised the move, alleging Congress party acquired properties worth Rs 40 crore for Rs 2 crore in 31 locations, including these 24 sites. But Shivakumar defended the allotments, saying Congress was using govt land.

Opposition leader in the legislative council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy accused the govt of violating rules in allocating CA sites and demanded that the allotments be revoked. He said BJP would launch a protest if the govt refused.

On Tuesday, Narayanaswamy alleged Congress acquired expensive CA plots at low rates for its offices, and that valuable land in every district was allotted to the party. He said officials had said there was no provision to allocate CA sites for party offices, and cabinet approval was obtained despite this.

Responding to the allegations, Shivakumar said, "We are building 100 Congress Bhavans to mark the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's presidency of Congress party in Belagavi. We are allocating only 5,000 to 10,000 sqft of land for these buildings."

He accused BJP of double standards, citing land allotments during its tenure. "The land given to Chanakya University is worth nearly Rs 10 crore per acre, but it was allotted at Rs 50 lakh per acre for 100 acres, and crores were collected through CSR funds. This was a clear misuse of power," he alleged.

Shivakumar also questioned how the RSS office was built without land allotment and cited instances of public parks being converted for private use. "I can give hundreds of such examples. They have no moral right to lecture us," he said, while insisting allotments were made as per rules and eligibility criteria and that critics were free to approach courts.

Priyank Kharge, rural development and panchayat raj minister, said his department had allotted a plot to the Congress party, prompting allegations against him as well. He questioned how the previous govt allotted large tracts of land near Devanahalli to a university established just two years before the allotment.

SHORT TAKES

GOING LOCAL: Sergio Gor, US Ambassador, and Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya at an eatery in Bengaluru on Tuesday

US ambassador tastes B'luru's street culture

Amid evolving trade ties, US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, spent an evening in Bengaluru combining local street culture with strategic messaging. Gor explored the city's street culture, including an auto-rickshaw ride and a stop at a local eatery for dosas with BJP MP Tejasvi Surya. Sharing a photograph from the visit, he wrote, "Just arrived in Bengaluru! From startups to street food, Bengaluru's energy is unmatched! Thank you to my great host, Tejasvi Surya." He also praised the city's innovation-driven ecosystem.

Clear internal quota bill, governor urged

A delegation led by food and civil supplies minister KH Muniyappa met Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot and submitted a memorandum seeking early assent to the internal reservation bill for Scheduled Castes. Excise minister BB Thimmapur, MLAs, MLCs and community representatives were part of the delegation. The memorandum stated that the bill was unanimously passed by both Houses and would provide reservation among 101 SC subcastes in line with social justice and equality principles. The bill aims to ensure equitable distribution of reservation benefits in education and employment. The govt divided the 17% SC quota for 101 castes in a 6-6-5 formula — 6% each for Right and Left sects and 5% for a third group including nomads.

22 Cong MLAs defy party brass, fly to Australia-NZ

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Of the 27 Congress legislators who had initially planned an overseas trip, 22 will leave for Australia and New Zealand early Wednesday despite reported warnings from the party high command. The move has intensified a tussle between Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar for the CM post.

The development comes despite Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge advising state functionaries to avoid differences and move forward through consensus.

Initially, 27 legislators aligned with Siddaramaiah, including MLCs Shamanooru Basyapura and B Thimmaiah and 25 MLAs, including animal husbandry minister K Venkatesh, were slated to embark on the trip.

However, four MLAs — NH Konanduru, Ganesh Prasad, Darshan Dhruvanarayan and Anil Chikkamadu — and minister Venkatesh opted out, allegedly following the high command's intervention. "I was supposed to accompany my party MLAs for the trip. But I decided to stay back owing to pending work in my constituency, Navalgund," said Konanedu.

Prasad said he initially considered joining the tour party as he saw nothing political about it. "I decided to drop out because I have to attend to personal work and issues related to my constituency, Gundlupet," he said.

Sources said Shivakumar was planning to press the high command to hold a Congress legislature party meeting by February. The trip is being seen as a way to counter the plan. Sources say another group of MLAs is planning a similar trip. The high command is said to have taken a dim view of the trip, with AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala reportedly calling several MLAs and asking them not to proceed with the plan.

When asked about it, Shivakumar said he had no information about the trip. "I came to know about this only through the media," he said. "I do not know whether these are personal trips or whether someone is sponsoring them. There are people sending others on tours and people going on tours. As party president, I will not interfere in this."

Minister Priyank Kharge, son of Mallikarjun Kharge, sought to downplay the controversy, saying legislators had travelled abroad earlier as well and questioned the need for permission. "I don't know who has asked them not to go on the trip. There is no connection between them and the preparation of the state budget," he said.

When asked about legislators travelling as a group, he said, "They had gone earlier as well. Legislators would have directly met the chief minister and placed their demands (for the budget) regarding their constituencies. Is there any rule that says legislators should not go on trips overseas? Is it illegal? Is it unconstitutional? Or is permission from the high command required? No. Do they require the govt's permission? No. They have undertaken a private trip as friends. Why should there be objections?" he asked.

On reports that Shivakumar had allegedly asked legislators not to proceed with the plans, Priyank said, "How did you get this information? As far as I know, no one has called the legislators."

DECISION ON CM ALREADY TAKEN: DKS

NETWORKING: DK Shivakumar with SR Srinivas and his son of the Gubbi community, Tuesday

Remarks that sent ripples in Congress, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar said a decision on a change at the helm has already been taken and that chief minister Siddaramaiah would announce it at an appropriate time.

"Nothing is secret," Shivakumar said Tuesday. "I have already commented on the issue, and Siddaramaiah has also spoken. Even Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has made a statement. A decision on the issue was taken after discussions between Siddaramaiah, the high command, and me. When the time comes, Siddaramaiah himself will give an answer and convey the message to the people of the state."

Asked whether he was indicating that the high command had held discussions on a change of CM, Shivakumar reacted sharply, saying "I won't answer your questions. Whatever statement I want to make, I will make," he said.

Siddaramaiah has insisted that he would abide by any decision of the high command, while his supporters continue to assert that he will complete a full term.

Suspend BLOs for voter list errors, says Shivakumar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A Congress delegation led by state party president and deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar Tuesday urged state election commissioner GS Sangreshi to suspend booth level officers (BLOs) responsible for irregularities during the voter list revision process.

Shivakumar said errors were found in the newly released draft voter list for Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and other local body elections, and alleged misconduct by BLOs. He said booth level agents (BLAs) of political parties should accompany BLOs during the revision process.

"BLOs are committing irregularities," Shivakumar said. "Last time, votes from one family were added to different booths. Mapping is not being done correctly. Therefore, political party BLAs should accompany BLOs for the revision. Along with the voter list, mapping of houses and votes should be done properly. Errors that occurred in some constituencies and booths during the previous election should also be corrected."

He said the voter list must be revised immediately, citing upcoming elections for zilla and taluk panchayats and GBA.

"Otherwise, it will tarnish the reputations of the Election Commission and the state govt," he said. "We met with the commissioner as a precaution and discussed these issues with him. We have informed them of errors we have found so far. Those who have illegally deleted minority and SC/ST voters and added fake votes should be suspended."

Shivakumar asserted that his govt is committed to ensuring a fair and transparent voters' list. Transport minister Ramalinga Reddy, health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, former MP DK Suresh, MLAs Rizwan Arshad and AC Srinivas, and MLCs Puttanna and Srinivas accompanied Shivakumar.

BIG LIST OF EXPECTATIONS: Chief minister Siddaramaiah and agriculture minister Cheluvarayaswamy at the pre-budget meeting with a delegation of farmers at Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday. Farmers presented a list of demands, including desilting of lakes and using the water for crops

Non-agriculturists shouldn't buy farm land, say farmers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A farmers' delegation urged chief minister Siddaramaiah to repeal amendments made by the previous BJP govt to Karnataka Land Reforms Act, which allowed non-agriculturists to purchase agricultural land in the state.

The delegation reminded Siddaramaiah during a budget preparation meeting Tuesday that Congress had promised to repeal the changes as part of its 2023 assembly election agenda.

Karubur Shanthakumar, president, State Farmers Organisation Federation, told **TOI** the CM had called the amendment "anti-farmer" when the BJP govt passed the bill and had promised its repeal.

"We asked him to announce his govt's stand in the budget," said Shanthakumar. "Congress govt has crossed the 1,000-day mark, but it still has not taken a pro-farmers' stand. We urge the govt to repeal the act as it had promised in its election rallies."

Farmers also listed other budget expectations including cleaning or desilting lakes across the state and directing the water to fields. They sought reintroduction of the Kisan Samman scheme and provision of Rs 10,000 aid to farmers.

They called for the repeal of APMC Amendment Act and sought strengthening of the scheme providing credit against farmers' produce in APMCs by allocating more funds. They also demanded strict laws to penalise those selling substandard pesticides, fake seeds and nursery plants.

The delegation said crop insurance should be extended to all crops, covering losses due to heavy rains, droughts, and natural disasters.

Demand 20% quota for daughters-in-law

The delegation of farmers Tuesday urged the govt to provide 20% reservation in govt jobs for daughters-in-law of farmers. They argued that many women and their parents prefer grooms with secure employment, making it difficult for youths solely dependent on agriculture to find suitable matches. As a result, several young farmers find it difficult to get a bride or remain unmarried. To address this, the govt should introduce a reservation policy, the delegation said.

Minister calls partymen 'street dogs', triggers fresh slugfest in Congress

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A political slugfest has erupted after social welfare minister HC Mahadevappa allegedly likened party colleagues to "street dogs", triggering sharp reactions within Congress amid a tussle for the chief minister post between Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar.

Mahadevappa, considered close to Siddaramaiah, made the remarks Monday while replying to questions about a possible change of CM. "Where is the discussion on leadership change? High court has said to catch street dogs and cage them. Here, the leadership is strong," Mahadevappa said in Kannada, prompting reporters to ask: "How are dogs and leadership related? Do you mean to say you have to shut up those who are speaking on the issue in public?"

Asked whether MLAs and ministers were awaiting clear directions from the high command in Delhi, Mahadevappa said, "High command must give us instructions and not the other way round. Can the tail wag the dog?"

On Tuesday, Mahadevappa sought to clarify his remarks, saying he was only citing a court order. "I was only referring to what was ordered by the high court. I do not know how you people perceive it," he said.

Shivakumar, deputy CM and party state president, refused to comment on Mahadevappa's remarks, saying: "I won't reply to him or anybody's remarks," he said. "HC Mahadevappa is a big man. Now, he is now also part of the high command."

However, Shivakumar's brother and former MP DK Suresh reacted sharply, saying loyal party workers should not be equated to street dogs. "Loyal Congress members are not strays. Like dogs, they have the quality of expressing debts of gratitude. Whether it is a street dog or a pet dog, it always remains loyal and repays its owner," he said.

HC Mahadevappa & DK Suresh

Congress MLA Shivaganga Basavaraj also criticised the remarks as inappropriate. "Both the tail and the dog are ours. If we feel bad about the tail, then the dog won't have any value. It's only apt if the dog wags its tail. He's a senior functionary and shouldn't have said this," Basavaraj said.

He said he was unsure of the context but added that drawing parallels between MLAs and stray dogs was not right. "If he's calling MLAs stray dogs then he's also a legislator. What does it make him?" he asked.

Previously, Congress MLC BK Hariprasad likened Shivakumar to a railway engine. "Shivakumar is like an engine taking along the entire train, but when it reaches a destination, he makes lots of noise and rouses vendors over those," he said.

Opposition leader in the legislative council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy took a swipe at Mahadevappa, saying, "the statement construes that all in Congress are dogs." He added, "Congress functionaries like dogs very much. Mahadevappa has subtly explained whether the dog is wagging its tail or tail is wagging the dog."

Sources say Mahadevappa had referred to those fuelling public dissent as "street dogs" that need to be restrained, and that his remarks were aimed at dissuading the influence of lower-rung functionaries on national strategy.

TIMES TRIBUTE
PAYING HOMAGE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL

To book your ad Logon to: ads.timesofindia.com or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free) Scan QR Code

TO BOOK AN OBITUARY AD PLEASE CALL
18001205474
(Toll Free)
TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO
Adstimesofindia.com

IN MEMORY OF

A. SHAMANAH REDDY 15.02.1957
AKKAYAMMA 06.06.2003
A.T.R FAMILY, New Thippasandra

TO BOOK AN OBITUARY AD
PLEASE CALL
18001205474
(Toll Free)
TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO
Adstimesofindia.com
Scan QR Code

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Mr. V.G.V Asirvatham
52 years, Ex-BEL
Beloved Father and Grandfather passed into God's presence on 17th February, 2026
Funeral Service at 10.30am on Saturday, 21st February, 2026 at St. Mark's Cathedral, M.G Road, Bangalore
Interment at Indian Christian Cemetery (Gate 18)
The Asirvatham Family

VAIKUNTA SAMARADHANE
18.02.2026

SRI. BHAKTHAVATSALA
23rd February 1960 – 8th February 2026
A devoted husband, a loving father, a caring father-in-law, a wonderful friend and most of all a kind soul. He lived his life selflessly spreading happiness.
His love and spirit will guide us forward and give us strength as we go through life.
In grief
Prathiba (wife), Dhruva Rakshan (Son), Roopali and Kushal (Daughter & Son in law)

BOOK OBITUARY ADS
To book an Obituary Ad Please contact:
Bharat 7760833522
TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO
Adstimesofindia.com
EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND ASSISTANCE
SCAN TO BOOK

TO BOOK AN OBITUARY AD PLEASE CALL
18001205474
(Toll Free)
TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO
Adstimesofindia.com
EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND ASSISTANCE
SCAN TO BOOK

TO BOOK AN OBITUARY AD PLEASE CALL
18001205474
(Toll Free)
TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO
Adstimesofindia.com

One can't allege rape after living like husband & wife: HC

Srishti.Lakhotia
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: A consensual sexual relationship turning acrimonious does not constitute rape merely because it has not resulted in marriage, Calcutta high court held on Monday, quashing a criminal case against a man accused of raping a woman, whom she had promised to marry but later backed out, and forcing her to undergo an abortion.

The conduct of the two was "akin to husband and wife", which indicated mutual consent rather than deception, the court said.

Justice Chaitali Chatterjee (Das) clarified that for consent to be considered as given under a "misconception of fact" — which in this case was the promise of marriage — deception must be present since the inception of a long-standing relationship. "There must have been a fraudulent or dishonest intention at the very inception and that she was induced to enter the sexual relationship (sic.); but they travelled together voluntarily on multiple occasions, stayed together, and conducted themselves in a manner akin to husband and wife. Such conduct clearly indicates mutual consent and companionship rather than inducement by deception," the judge said.

The woman entered a relationship with the accused in 2017. She alleged that in 2019, he forced her to drink and then raped her, but she remained silent because he promised to marry her. In 2020, she became pregnant and underwent an abortion which, according to medical reports placed before the HC, was done with her consent, while the accused signed as her guardian. The woman alleged that she agreed to the abortion because the accused promised to marry her.

However, after he backtracked on his promise of marriage, she lodged a police complaint in West Midnapore on Feb 18, 2022.

Citing 'consensual relationship', Allahabad HC quashes rape charges

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: The Allahabad high court has quashed criminal proceedings, including charges sheet for repeated rape, against a govt official, observing that the allegations of a forceful relationship over along period under the threat of viral videos, were prima facie not sustainable.

Justice Arvish Sasena made the observation on Monday while allowing a petition filed by Neeraj Kumar and another, who had filed the application under Section 528 of BNSS to quash the charges-heet and cognizance-taking order dated Feb 26, 2026, in an alleged rape case.

The FIR was lodged on Dec 1, 2024, on the basis of the woman's complaint. After going through the entire records, the court observed, "This is hard to believe that a married woman was consistently subjected to sexual intercourse at the hotel under the fear that her video be made viral by the accused first applicant."

TIMES interact — To book your ad
Logon to: ads.timesofindia.com or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free)
Scan QR Code
Connecting People, Connecting Needs.

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby notified that my clients have progress to purchase the Development Rights covered under the Development Right Certificate (DRC) described in Schedule herein, from **SRI. NAGARAJ A.** Son of late Sri. Anegua, House No. 316, Kasakadaiga Street, Kaikere, Haranaya Post, Bangalore-560 043, acquired pursuant to Relinquishment Deed dated 30/01/2015 which is read with Rectified/Registered Relinquishment Deed dated 22/07/2025. Any person or persons objecting for the proposed purchase and persons who are having any right, title, interest or any agreement or otherwise shall lodge his/her/their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Ten days from the date of this publication. Further, claims or alleged interest or objections if any, which are not received within (10) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be considered to have been consciously waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes. Any objections and/or claims and/or response received thereafter will not be considered by my clients and my clients will proceed to purchase Schedule DRC as if there are no claims/objections.
SCHEDULE :
Transferable Development Rights (TDR) measuring 497.00 Sq. Mtrs held under Development Rights Certificate (DRC) issued by the Bangalore Development Authority, bearing No.237 in Ledger Folio No. 604/TDR. Cell/DRC/237/2025-26 dated 18/09/2025, issued pursuant to surrender of land in Sy.No. 67/P1 and bearing E Khatha No. E.F.I.D No.2320071227 and bearing Property No. 57/E/1 in the records of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike and situated at Kalkere Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bengaluru District.
Sd. **KUSUMA R. MUKHALI**
SRI.KUSUMA KALEKAR
Advocates,
No.101, "ESHA PARK", No.20, Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore-560 001.
Tel : 22217971 & 42000249
Bangalore Date: 17/02/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Under the authority of Cooperative Election Authority (CEA), Ministry of Cooperation, Govt. of India, in pursuance of the letter No. 12011 / 452 / 2025 (Section No. 148 / 2025-26 dated 19-Jan-2026 the election of Revanta MS CGHS Ltd. will be conducted on 29-Mar-2026 from 8am to 4pm at Radha Krishna Trust, Bagalur Village, Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi-110077. All members of the Society are invited to participate in the election.
Returning Officer
Revanta MS CGHS Ltd, New Delhi

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

ACADEMIC

TEACHER

REPUTED school in Sanshankari Bangalore requires experienced Principle & high school teachers for English, Maths, Kannada, Science, Social Science, Computer, PT, Drawing & Nursery. Ph: 7019062010

The Regency Institutions
Vidyaranyapura, Blore-97 is Hiring for School :
Art and Craft, Western Music Teacher for PUC :
Accountancy & English Faculty. Graduation / Master's Degree in the Subject with Minimum 3 Years Experience. Send Resume to faculty2regcruit@gmail.com, Phone - 080-23033270

RADIANT-SCHOOL-OF-EXCELLENCE
Gandhinagar, Chamarajanagar invites passionate, Qualified dedicated Teachers with minimum 2 years experience in any required CBSE/ ICSE with good communication skill send resumes to the school for the academic year 2026-27
Pre primary - graduates with MTT/ NTT trained Primary & Middle. BA/ MA with B.Ed for English, Kannada , Social Studies, History & Economics B.Sc/ M.Sc with B.Ed for Maths & Science (PG - CBSE/ M.Phil. Special Educator - Graduates with diploma / certificate course in Special Education School Counselor : B.Sc / BA/ Mbo/ Msc / MA in psychology. Teaching subject in graduation is must. Good salary.
Call : 9686800881, 9886777885
Jnanaganagaraprathishtana@gmail.com

guruKul
WE ARE HIRING
Strong Communication | Effective Teaching Skills | Passion for Teaching
Applicants must be graduates with a minimum 2 years experience in any required CBSE/ ICSE school in Bangalore. Interested candidates may apply for the following positions:
ENGLISH TEACHER - SENIOR SECONDARY
• Qualification: Postgraduate in English with B.Ed/Pursuing
ALL SUBJECT TEACHERS / LAB ASSISTANT & PHYSICAL EDUCATION
• Experience: 0-2 Years
• Freshers are welcome
TEACHERS REQUIRED FOR
• Arts | Dance | Singing | Instrumental Music
• WALK-IN INTERVIEW
16th February to 23rd February
• Please carry an updated resume and marks cards
• Contact No.: +91 77952 08676
• JP Nagar, 9th Phase
Anjanayaswamy Temple, Arekatte Hall | Bangalore - 560078
A SCHOOL WITH A DIFFERENCE
30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Calm Heart
ANANTHA
KIDS WORLD
Affiliated to
DEVANAHALLI
BANGALORE RURAL
TEACHERS WANTED
English, Science Social Studies, Physics, Biology For Primary, Middle and High School
Passion for Teaching & Excellent English language skills needed. Salary on par with established schools.
Transport Provided
Pls email resume to hr@anantha.ac.in
For any queries call: 99002 67365

TIMES interact
RECRUITMENT ADS
ROL
Rs 3000/- for 5 lines
CD SINGLE COLUMN
Rs 980/- per scm
(Min 3x5)
PACKAGE
TOI KA + TOIBG Sunday + VK All + ETBG + Mirror
For further information, Contact: 7760833522

KORAMANGALA: Podar Jumbo Kids requires Teachers & Daycare Teachers. Freshers also can apply. Ph: 8880008885

KRITHVIK International School Bangalore Requires Teachers for PRT/TGT/ English, Hindi, Kannada, Maths, Science, Social Science, Computers, Music, Yoga, Librarian, Pre-Primary Teachers, Nurse, Counsellor. Interested candidates send your resume to hrd@krithvikinternationalschool.in or Call: 90711-02802/ 90711-02803

ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

B.COM GRADUATES with 75% and above Marks having Experience of 1 to 2 Years in Tally and Income Tax/GST. Send Your Resume to: kharyaandcompany@gmail.com. Mob: 9902612808

WANTED Monthly ACCOUNTS ASSISTANTS Male Freshers or experienced candidates from Basavangudi nearby places Call 9663661864

ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE ASSISTANTS

WANTED Female Office Assistant Any Degree Knowing Tally, Fluent In English, Kannada, Hindi Around Rajajinagar Contact: 9538428750/ 9845079650

SENIOR / TOP MANAGERS

CAREER Offer, Retd Govt/ Banker, 10Yrs Retd. Teachers & Housewives Unlimited Income, Foreign trips & FEESI benefits. 8431000844, 9845000844

STENOGRAPHERS & TYPISTS

REQUIRED Typist, who is good in English typing for a law firm in J.P. Nagar, Bangalore. Age should be between (21 to 45 years.) Contact : 9916242021

MARKETING, ADVERTISING & SALES

MARKETING

Required MARKETING EXECUTIVES with Good Command in English/ Experience in Real Estate. Attractive Incentives Offered. Call: "IRSHADS" 96456-41769 Email: info@irshadsproperty.com

A well-established Unit Industrial Corporation - Alcoholic Beverages - is seeking a Marketing Executive to join its Branch team in Bangalore or Karnataka any districts Requirements is 3 years' experience in Marketing field, Strong communication and presentation skills, Knowledge of marketing strategies, Ability to work independently and meet targets. Interested candidates should send their CV to sales.anadpungu@gmail.com Or WhatsApp to 9971445028 / 9968004321

FIELD Sales/ Marketing Executive (B2B Sales - Bath Fittings) must own 2-wheeler, Loco, Bangalore South. 9-7LPA. 9731458980

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXECUTIVES

REQD Customers Service Executive, age: 20yrs+, fluency in Eng/Kan/Hindi, any Degree, Sal 30K+ incentives, Interior Store @ Jayanagar. 9916805287

SALES

REQ: Marketing Manager and Sales Executives with experience for Interiors Designers. Apply with CV at sereshanth.s86@gmail.com

WANTED Managers, Sales Executives, Telecallers for a Real Estate firm. Fluency in English preferred. Attractive Salary + Incentives. 9876027879

MEDICAL

MEDICAL

LIONS Trust (R) Wanted Speech Therapist & Occupational Therapist to support children with Autism through therapeutic care. Remuneration is modest. Contact : lionstrustservice foundation@gmail.com / 7026280867 / 8904042180 / 9980360861

REQUIRE-FEMALE Doctor preferably OBG experience for a hospital situated 30kms from Bangalore. Free accomodation with attractive salary. Call: Dr Abhas 90086 06060.

OTHER PROFESSIONALS

ARCHITECTS

ENARCH Requires Architectural assistants / Draftsman & Site Engineers. Fresh / Experienced with Degree or Diploma. Call 90728-79401 Mail : enarch_a@mail.com

FREE LANCERS

WANTED Freelance Business Development Manager Person should be Highly Educated Extraordinary Hunting Independent Decision. Call: 9986002040

GRAPHICS & DSGN

WANTED Male Graphic Designer (Corel Draw Photoshop Illustrator) Pvt Ltd Company around Rajajinagar Contact 9108400798/ 9060379608

OTHER VACANCIES

GENERAL

10+ YEARS Liaisoning experience with Revenue Dept. Expertise in land records, DC office, conversion files, approvals. Strong government authority coordination. Mysore Road area exposure preferred. Apply: shivakumar@vaishnodevelestates.com CONTACT: 8095478114

WE are seeking a candidate with proficiency in computer applications and conversation skills for a real estate office position. +91 9845063227

WE-ARE-HIRING
1) Field executive - 3 nos.
2) Field Manager - 2 nos with minimum 3year experience Two wheeler is must.
3) Telecallers - 2 nos Mandatory Malayalam and English.
Call: 8884440000 / 8884430000. Send CV to this no : 9243629027

WANTED General Manager, Branch Manager, Corporate Trainer with good Fluent eng, any qualification, Salary upto 1 Lakh, age above 30 yrs. Male or Female. Kannada, English, Hindi speaking knowledge. Branch Office at Jayanagar, Hebbal. Call: 7676600200

WANTED: Showroom sales Executives (2) & office Boy - 1 Male & Female candidates aged below - 40 Location - Horamavu For more details contact - 7026217865

MULTIPLE JOBS

1) Business Development Manager Sales Manager for
• Plywood Showroom
• Ceramics Showroom
• Door Manufacturing
• Interior Design Firm
• Ed Tech Media/ Training Academy
• Employee Transport / Cab Service Firm
• Catering Service Firm
2) Office Manager for Interior firm
3) Graphic Designer for Digital Marketing firm
4) Sub Editor for English & Kannada Magazine
Send CV to jobsfabio@gmail.com
Only whatsapp 9972041229

TEACHERS WANTED

FOR ALL SUBJECTS INCLUDING KG HEAD
And Coaches for all major games
For an International CBSE School going to be launched for the A/Y 2026 at Kerala
Attractive Salary, Food and Accomodation will be provided.
Send CV : hrschool26@gmail.com
Mob: 9446791491, 6238197250

LEADING LANDSCAPING COMPANY BASED IN DUBAI & KSA(R) requires experienced candidates for Kichi Civil Engineers, Horticulturist and Supervisor. Send CV: uniforumcontracting.sales@gmail.com / +971503690040

INDIAN Drivers requl. Branch Manager with BDs 3 yrs. exp. And Telecaller with Min.1 yr exp.at Hebbal Office. Salary as per market standards. Call :70300 18351 / 82220 18113 www.indian-drivers.com

PART TIME JOBS

BREAKING NEWS !
Residing in and around Bangalore
CAREER OFFER for
RETD. GOVT. Officials, Self Employed, Banker, Professionals, Home Makers. only Call for Registration. 87522 28008

RETIRED PERSONS

JOB Opportunity for Retired Men, House Wife & Graduates in any reputed Co. Age 40 to 60. BANGALORE&NE INDIA. Earn upto 70,000. Ph: 7204000884

REQUIRED Financial Consultants, Retd Govt Officials/Tax Consultants/ CA/CS/ Auditors/ Bankers/Housewives/Business Owners Call: 9008882429

WORK FROM HOME

PART Time /Full Time Opportunity for Ret. Govt/Pvt. Officials, Defence/Bankers/ Sr. Citizens & House Wives. To work in Team & earn 40K Plus. Age 50-75 Yrs. Call: 98860-98881

EARN upto50pcs new Investor at work from home free training from Top Co.for Ret official /Bankers/CA/Tax Consultants /Site call 9686810007, 9008882429

TECHNICAL

ENGINEERS

WANTED B.E., Civil (or) D.C.E. For Valuation Inspection Send Resume to rmrvaluer@gmail.com 9731135171/ 94487 97550

SITUATION VACANT

WE ARE HIRING
Position Open for
• Sr. Sales Executive
• Jr. Sales Executive
• Accounts Executive
• Admin Executive
Any Degree
Prashtek Eparts Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
info@eparts.co.in
9148196666

SITUATIONS ABROAD

URG. Regd/Avail. Female US & Canada visa holder. also Regd. Japan, nanny & governess for India, HK, Dubai, Singapore, Australia, Europe. 8978378187

business

BUSINESS PROPOSALS

BUSINESS for Sale Cable network in Jp nagar Lagget with 200 + connections for sale contact 9019485288

INVESTMENT

WANTED INVESTORS
For AMERICAN COMPANY-INDIAN EXPANSION
MINISTRY OF COCOA INDIA
JUICE BAR/ KIOSKS
URBAN/ RURAL/ TOURISM
Contact: 9845000844

INVESTMENT 15 Lakhs Per Unit Profit Share Model
Swbangalore@company.com digimail.com 8904480987 / 9900811907

LOANS

ADANI FINANCE
Contact us at :
84760 07729
ALL TYPES Loans (SE-MSC) Personal, Business, Home & Agri. Attractive, @ 8 to 18% P.A.Best Deals. No cibil reg. Agents Welc.

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

BASAVANAGUDI

BASAVANAGUDI SALE ASHE LUXURY FLAT 3BHK SEMI-FURNISHED, FLAT CLOSE TO GANDHIBAZAAR. CALL:98860 12040/ 080 5000 3070

MARATHAHALLI

FOR SALE - 3BHK - 1668 SFT - MARATHAHALLI Fully furnished flat in Arises Towers. One Car Parking. Pending Rs.86,000 rent. Price 1.9 Cr. Call: 9886680856.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES - GROWING ELECTRICAL CO.
• PROJECT EXECUTION TEAM
(Project Managers, Project Coordinators, Site Engineers, Site Supervisors, Storepersons) - For Transmission Line, Sub-station and Underground Cable (HDD) Projects.
• RMU MANUFACTURING UNIT
(RMU Production Managers, Design Engineers - Electrical/ Mechanical, Process Engineers, Assembly & Wiring Technicians)
• CORPORATE OFFICE (Planning & Procurement Officers)
• EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR.
Qualification: MBA/Any Graduation: Fluency in English. 4 to 5 years experience.
Qualification: Degree/Diploma - Electrical, ITI-Electrical in relevant disciplines with hands-on experience.
Salary & Perks will not be constrained for the right candidates.
Apply within 15 days, mentioning the position applied for.
Email: sathish@thesvamagroup.com / Mob: 9980018506
Website: https://thesvamagroup.com

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

COMMERCIAL Space Available FOR RENT on Commercial 80ft Main Road, Hoyala, Ph:96111 42000 2000 sft. upto 5000 sft. avail. also Contact: 9916000000

VIGNANNAGAR MAIN ROAD, TABLE TENNIS CENTRE (5-TABLES) FOR RENT BASAVA NAGAR in EAST Bangalore 98868 80613

auto

PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

MERCEDES

Mercedes GLE 250 d 4 Matic
2017 WHITE, Diesel car with Sunroof & original leather interiors done 78000 kms with new tyres and valid insurance. Interested pls call: 9900173666

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Manjunath Kalakappa Kundagol, S/o Kalakappa Bappa Kundagol R/o 280 Mahanane Badavane, Hubli Taluk, Dharwad - 580025, have changed my name from Manjunath Kalakappa Kundagol to Manjunath Kundagol vide affidavit dt 13-02-2026 before notary T. Mallikarjun Hiremath.

I, Hindu Pooma, w/o Satish Kumar S, R/o 139, Vaishnavi Mathur Apt, kalkere, Ramamurthy Nagar, Blore, have changed our minor daughter's name from Kayal to Kayal Hara vide affidavit dt 18-Jan-2026 sworn before notary S.I.Belagavi, Blore.

I, A C Naveen Kumar R/o 8000, Ground Floor, Sahara Grand Apartment, Doddanekundi, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my minor son's name from Abhay Ram to Abhay Arin Naveen for all purposes.

I, Hitesh Singh Sarpal Singh S/O. Narpal Singh R/o No.18/1 Yth A Cross Magadi Road, K P Agrahara, Bengaluru, 560023 have changed my name to Hitesh Singh for all purposes.

LOST & FOUND

I, Chikkamuniyamma have lost My Original Sale deed documents Situated in Puttenahalli Village of Bnor Taluk, Krishnagiri Dist., Doc No - 8030/2005, Sy No - 64/1, Plot No- 86-A, Area Extent 2800 sqft, (2800 Hours) With Same Personal Work in Bangalore Near Bharathi Nagar Near Gas tower, Case No -8080350/2005, Sakala No - PR0023060080280, AE No-STC/AE0020000127587/ Finder Please Contact or Return to This Address, Chikkamuniyamma Bnr / At. 178, Aswada Valmark, Doddakammanahalli, Gottigere, Blore South. Please 9731102288.

Metso
METSO INDIA Pvt. Ltd.
www.metso.com
Need Go - Getters to work in a Multinational Company which is World leader in Aggregates & Mining Industry.
Requirement
Engineer/Sr. Engineer Service Operations
Location : OPEN
Job Profile: To take care of operations and maintenance of Crushing & Screening Plants
Experience: Minimum 2+Years of Experience on operation and Maintenance of Crushing & Screening equipment
Education: B.Tech./Diploma (Mechanical/Electrical)
Compensation: Best in the industry with attractive site allowances & benefits
Interested candidates can share their resumes to shankaba.joshi@metso.com

GET NOTICED
KARNATAKA'S BIGGEST OG SEERE UTSAVA 2.0 IS BACK
100000 Sarees 20,000 + Designs 2000 + Varieties
Seere Utsava
Lowest Price Guaranteed Direct Weaver's Prices
100 YEARS OF TRUSTED LEGACY
SULAKSHMI SILKS
18th to 28th FEB 2026
11 AM TO 9 PM
SIGNATURE SILK SAREE COLLECTIONS
• Pure Mysore Silk • Kanjeevaram • Patola
• Banaras • Uppada • Paithani • Chanderi
• Gadwal • Ilkal • Pochampally • Muga
• Bhagalpur • Ikat • Jamdhani • Arai
• Gajji • Bandhani • Cotton Classics
• Crepe • Bangalore Silk & More
Sri Suryodaya Kalyana Mantapa
West of Chord Road, Vijayanagar
99727 18898 | 96631 27606
93531 38343 | 98863 06643

BE YOUR OWN BOSS!
Opportunity to earn One Lac Plus per month !
START YOUR OWN FILTER COFFEE KIOSK WITH A A TO Z COMPLETE SETUP AT JUST ₹7 LAKHS!
A to Z Complete Setup, Manpower & Loan Assistance Provided!
INVITING FRANCHISEES FOR INDIA'S NO.1 FILTER COFFEE CHAIN!
All-Inclusive Setup at ₹7 Lakhs! (Includes Infrastructure, Equipment, Stock & Marketing)
Trained Manpower Provided
Prime Location Assistance (Top footfall locations handpicked for you)
Bank Loans Arranged Even If You Have No Money! (Easy Financing Options Available)
BE A PART OF THE 10,000+ OUTLET REVOLUTION WITH KAAPPI READY!
CALL NOW TO LEARN MORE!
+91 84899 20002
kaappi ready
"Connecting India through Cool Chill & Filter Coffee"
INDIA'S No.1 FILTER COFFEE CHAIN

GET NOTICED

KRISH-V GLOBAL
LUXURY INTERIORS
TRANSPARENT PRICES
• Flexible Packages • Transparent Process
• No Hidden Costs • Guaranteed Timely Completion
9164 056 000
www.krishvglobalinteriors.com

BOOK YOUR VEHICLE ADS
TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO timesofindia.com
SCAN QR CODE

'Sold 30 yrs ago, no past to prove': Paperless Sonagachhi residents at special SIR hearing

Poulami Roy/@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: I was sold 30 years ago. How can I show the papers? The exasperated refrain by a 38-year-old sex worker sums up the mood in Kolkata's largest red-light area of Sonagachhi, when several residents who had no papers to show to get enlisted as voters attended a "special hearing" conducted by the Election Commission on Monday as part of the poll panel's SIR of voter rolls.

Even though the hearing process concluded on Feb 14, a special session was held for those without documents. A total of 266 sex workers' names were listed from wards 18 and 26, who were asked mostly about their family roots.

One sex worker, who came with her face covered with a black mask, was asked to show documents related to her father. She replied: "I can't remember his face, but I remember that my childhood was spent in a rural area, though I don't know where." She had come with her son and submitted his birth certificate, in which her live-in partner's name was mentioned.

Another sex worker came with a pile of her own documents, but she was asked to show older documents to prove her family roots. After attending the hearing, she told TOI: "I was sold 30 years ago, and I never met anyone related to my past life. I know this place is my only home, and I have all my documents like Aadhaar card, voter card, and PAN card, but I can't show anything related to my past life." Around 7,000 sex workers live in the area spread across 18 parts of the two wards. Of them, around 266 were listed after filling to show documents in the previous hearings. A total of 26 were called in the special hearing and asked to show any past documents to establish links to their earlier lives.

A BLO from Ward 18 said: "During form distribution, a number of sex workers said they didn't have any documents to show, or they left most columns blank, which is quite natural for them. How will they get documents from the past that has already faded from their lives?"

Another 1.9L voters' names in Guj omitted

▶Continued from page 1

Another 1.9 lakh voters' names in Gujarat were omitted for other reasons. Based on objections and further verification after the draft rolls were published, another 3.9 lakh names were deleted from the rolls. Ahmedabad topped the state with 49.1 lakh voters in the final rolls, up from 48 lakh in the draft list. The district also recorded the highest number of additions at 1.5 lakh new electors. In percentage terms, Dang registered the highest proportional increase at 2.15%, although its total voter base stands at 1.9 lakh. Other districts with notable percentage growth were Porbandar (2.1%), Jamnagar (2%), Botad (1.9%), Chhota Udepur (1.9%) and Gandhinagar (1.8%).

Environmental degradation is mostly irreversible: SC

▶Continued from page 1

SC said the Constitution does not permit a trade-off where civilian life and health are exposed to foreseable harm on the assumption that economic benefit or industrial facilitation justifies such exposure. "Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India do not tolerate a regulatory calculus that treats environmental safety as negotiable," it said.

Faulting the reclassification of industries and the dilution of the restrictions on locations without considering their proximity to habitation and ill-effect on environment, Justices Nath and Mehta said, "Sector-level reclassification, divorced from exposure realities and local sensitivities, would become a ready instrument to justify siting of polluting activities near habitations, schools, and other sensitive receptors."

"Such an approach would not remain confined to the present case. It would operate as a precedent, enabling progressive erosion of preventive safeguards across regions, with cumulative and irreversible consequences. The law does not permit environmental protection to be weakened incrementally until harm becomes inevitable," the bench said. It said environmental degradation is mostly irreversible. "A regulatory framework that allows risk to materialise first and seeks to address consequences later is fundamentally incompatible with constitutional environmental jurisprudence," the bench said.

It said courts are slow to interfere with the developmental and economic activities of the state. "However, restraint cannot extend to abdication. Where regulatory action results in a lowering of the constitutional minimum of protection guaranteed to citizens, particularly in matters affecting life and health, judicial intervention becomes a constitutional obligation," it said.

NCP: Nature of crash transcends ordinary accident

▶Continued from page 1

Ajit Pawar and four others were killed in a plane crash in Baramati. In the letter, the NCP stated that "multiple aspects surrounding the incident give rise to legitimate apprehensions regarding investigation by an independent central agency."

Among the "substantial questions" raised, the letter said, were the "reported last-minute changes in flight crew composition," which requires "scrutiny of operational decision-making and authorization," "apparent anomalies concerning Air Traffic Control communications and sequencing of runway clearances," "concerns regarding the functioning and integrity of critical onboard safety warning systems," "absence of any recorded distress communication despite proximity to landing phase," and "matters requiring forensic evaluation, including crew fitness, maintenance compliance, and aircraft systems."

NCP said that as the probe into the incident "involves highly technical aviation, forensic, electronic, and operational considerations," the "investigative powers, technical expertise, and inter-state jurisdictional capacity of the Central Bureau of Investigation render it the most appropriate agency to conduct a comprehensive inquiry."

A CBI investigation would serve to "reinforce confidence in the fairness and integrity of the investigative process and ensure that all relevant aspects are examined without limitation," the letter stated.

The party highlighted that the "nature of the incident transcends an ordinary accident and directly engages public confidence in aviation safety, regulatory oversight, and institutional accountability."

The NCP legislature party is fully behind Sunetra Pawar, and there is no dissent, Tatkare said.

Tatkare said that BJP state president Ravindra Chavan met him at the NCP office and discussed the way forward for the Mahayuti alliance after its victory in the recent zilla parishad polls.

HON'BLE SUPREME COURT MONITORED HOUSING PROJECTS THROUGH LD. COURT RECEIVER
Executed by NBCC (India) Limited

Bulk Sale of inventory through e-Auction

Aspire Silicon City
Ph-IV, Sec-76, Noida, UP
» 4BHK & Duplex Spacious Apartments with modern amenities.
» Near Spectrum Mall, Noida
Nearest metro stations are Noida Sec-50 (Aqua Line) & Sec-76 Metro and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway Station-25 min.

ASPIRE SILICON CITY

ASPIRE LEISURE PARK

Aspire Leisure Park
Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (W), UP
» Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
» Near D-Mart and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway Station-30 Min.

Aspire Leisure Valley
Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (W), UP
» Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
» Near D-Mart and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway Station-35 min.

ASPIRE LEISURE VALLEY

ASPIRE CENTURIAN PARK

Aspire Centurian Park
Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (W), UP
» Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
» Near D-Mart and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway Station-30 min.

Last date of submission of EMD: 27.02.2026
E-auction will be held on: 28.02.2026
EMD Rs.9.70 Cr. to Rs. 20.90 Cr.
6 Packages Ranging from Rs. 485 Cr. to Rs. 1,845 Cr.
Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 19-02-2026 at 11:30 am at WTC, New Delhi

For more details, please visit our website: www.nbccindia.in | www.receiveramrapali.in
Or : 9772907414

Please scan this QR for e-auction document

SPOTLIGHT

Karnataka government marks a milestone

As the Government of Karnataka completes 1000 days in office, it has been lauded for its focus on welfare spending, direct benefit transfers, infrastructure investment and transparent land and revenue reforms. Laxmi R Hebbalkar, Minister for Women and Child Development, Disabled and Senior-Citizens Empowerment and M B Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industry and Infrastructure Development, outline the government's flagship welfare measures, and the roadmap for the next phase of growth

LAXMI R HEBBALKAR
Minister for Women and Child Development, Disabled and Senior-Citizens Empowerment

Empowerment for all

How much progress has the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme achieved so far?

The Gruha Lakshmi scheme is providing financial security to crores of women in the state. It is a model scheme, unique in the world. A fixed amount is deposited directly into the beneficiaries' bank accounts every month. This scheme has strengthened women's self-respect.

The government launched the scheme with the goal of supporting the economic independence of 1.28 crore women. In such a large financial programme, minor delays are natural—just as managing a household budget can sometimes be challenging. However, there is no financial gap/lag with the scheme. So far, 28 monthly instalments have been deposited, amounting to ₹52,000 per beneficiary, and nearly ₹60,000 crore has been transferred directly to beneficiaries' accounts.

What is the current status of women's self-help groups, Anganwadi workers, and Anganwadi centres?

Self-help groups are the backbone of the rural economy. We are giving them high priority by providing loan facilities, training, and market access. Additionally, we have launched the Gruha Lakshmi Bank and are implementing Gruha Lakshmi self-help groups. We believe this will bring a major transformation in rural areas and is another important step toward women's self-reliance.

Steps are being taken in phases to improve Anganwadi workers' salaries, facilities, and working conditions. Necessary equipment and other facilities have been provided. After our government came to power, we increased salaries by ₹1,000 for workers and ₹750 for helpers. Key initiatives include improving infrastructure, enhancing the quality of nutritious food, implementing digital tracking systems, and monitoring child development. English-medium education has been introduced at the pre-primary level. My aim is to ensure that children from poor families receive quality education at the foundation level, equal to what children from affluent families receive.

What special schemes are there for persons with disabilities?

Several schemes are being designed for persons with disabilities. Earlier, tricycles were distributed annually based on targets. After I took charge, we ensured that all eligible beneficiaries receive tricycles within 2-3 years. Special schemes are also in place for education, job training, financial assistance, and distribution of assistive devices.

Are there plans to introduce new schemes in the department?

The Abbigade initiative has been launched for women's safety. To ensure quality education at the foundation level for poor children, LKG and UKG classes have been introduced in Anganwadi centres. Additionally, as an extension of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, a Gruha Lakshmi Cooperative Multi-Purpose Society is being launched. Since taking charge, I have implemented several schemes, and new plans are being designed with a focus on women's economic independence, child nutrition, and the welfare of weaker sections of society.

As the only woman in the Cabinet, how has that shaped your experience in government, and how do you approach your responsibilities in the Women and Child Development Department?

All my cabinet colleagues have supported and guided me. However, I strongly believe that more women should be represented in the cabinet. I am confident that in the coming days, more women will become MLAs and ministers. Every job has its challenges, but with commitment, anything can be managed. As a first-time minister, I have taken careful, informed steps. At present, everything is running smoothly. Being a woman allows me to understand women's issues more deeply. I have a good opportunity to implement women-centric schemes and raise my voice for women. I manage the department with great pride.

MB PATIL
Minister for Large and medium industry and Infrastructure Development

What have been the significant achievements in the industry sector in these 1,000 days?

The completion of 1,000 days in office marks an important milestone for our government. On the industry's front, Karnataka continues to rank among the top three states in most key sectors. Institutions such as NITI Aayog have acknowledged our growth momentum. This progress has been driven by transparent governance, efficient administration, strong revenue mobilisation and a balanced development model that harmonises economic expansion with social justice.

A major achievement was the Global Investors' Meet (GIM) held in Bengaluru, where we secured investment commitments exceeding ₹10.27 lakh crore. Importantly, 46 per cent of these commitments have already been grounded — demonstrating that our focus is on implementation rather than announcements. These projects alone are expected to generate over six lakh jobs.

Public enterprises have also recorded historic performance. Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) achieved a turnover of ₹1,484 crore and a profit of ₹401 crore in 2024-25, and is expected to cross ₹2,000 crore this year. A new Mysuru Sandal unit is being established in Vijayapura at a cost of ₹200 crore. Efforts are also underway to set up a unit at Dabaspete. Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL) recorded a turnover of ₹3,382 crore and a profit of ₹122 crore, and is exceeding through digital transformation initiatives. Reviving legacy institutions such as NIMHANS and Mysore Paints are central to one pillar of our broader industrial revitalisation strategy.

How do you see the Industrial Policy 2025-30 catalysing investments into the state?

The Industrial Policy 2025-30 is designed as a structured and forward-looking roadmap aimed at generating 20 lakh jobs over five years. Its emphasis is closely on exports, manufacturing and service sectors.

The policy addresses regional imbalances by offering enhanced incentives, subsidies and easier land allotment in districts beyond Bengaluru. This aligns with our larger objective of building self-sustaining industrial ecosystems in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, a message that resonated strongly during our interactions at Davos.

Emerging sectors such as semiconductors, electronics system design and manufacturing (ESDM), and clean energy have been prioritised. Our Clean Energy Policy alone carries an investment target of ₹58,000 crore.

Ease of Doing Business has been fundamentally strengthened. We have operationalised a single-window platform integrating 130 services, and in collaboration with Microsoft, introduced an advanced chatbot system enabling entrepreneurs to track applications in real time.

What promising investments do you see coming in from the recent World Economic Forum meetings?

Our participation at the World Economic Forum in Davos has significantly strengthened Karnataka's global positioning and accelerated discussions on high-value investments. During the summit, we held productive meetings with over 20 international companies and more than 15 Indian companies across priority sectors such as aerospace and defence, advanced manufacturing, beverages and food processing, space technology, life sciences, data centres, digital infrastructure and clean energy. There has been particularly strong interest in next-generation sectors such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, Industry 4.0 technologies, robotics, quantum technology and data centres. We also held discussions with the governments of Liechtenstein and Singapore to explore collaborative investment opportunities. The Davos visit also served as an important platform to prepare for emerging technological challenges. Our approach is to harness future technologies responsibly while ensuring job creation for Karnataka's large youth population and women.

Encouragingly, out of the ₹13.27 lakh crore investment commitments secured at the Global Investors' Meet last year, 46 per cent of those commitments have already been grounded. Additionally, fresh investments worth ₹1.1 lakh crore have flowed into the state over the past 11 months in sectors such as manufacturing, renewable energy, data centres and Global Capability Centres.

What are your achievements and plans on the infrastructure front?

Infrastructure forms the critical foundation for rural social growth and economic development. With this understanding, we have closely integrated our industrial expansion with strategic connectivity and logistics planning. Vijayapura airport is ready for inauguration, and we have written to the Central Government seeking international status for Hubballi and Belagavi airports. Steps are underway to establish a second airport in Bengaluru.

Large projects such as KWIN City, a 5,000-acre integrated development near Bengaluru, will host global universities, hospitals, research institutions and high-technology industries. A dedicated Semiconductor City is also planned. Specialised industrial clusters like Jewels Park in Ballari, Startup City in Hubballi and Pharma City in Kolara will strengthen regional industrial ecosystems.

■ Parkinson's can be read in brain years before tremors show
■ Should you switch to the brisk-slow 'Japanese walk'?
Read these and many more: toi.in/healthplus

What too munch love does to your metabolic health

Incessant snacking is driving obesity, insulin resistance and making people prone to early ageing

Srinupa.Ray@timesofindia.com

All through the day, many of us are munching constantly. Between breakfast, lunch and dinner, the average Indian manages to squeeze in several snack times, often with a midnight bite thrown in for good measure. Needless to say, most of those snacks come out of a packet and are processed foods. And a mouth that's chomping all day can be pretty tiring for one's metabolism.

"Around 76% of Indians snack at least twice daily," points out Dr Ambrish Mithal, head of endocrinology and diabetes at Max Healthcare, Delhi, and a Padma Bhushan recipient. "Every snack, regardless of size, triggers an insulin response." So, unlike popular belief, snacking doesn't actually boost metabolism. Rather, constantly snacking on high-carb or ultra-processed foods raises risks of insulin resistance and metabolic syndrome, Dr Mithal says.

Grazing, a rollercoaster for the body

It's not the occasional snack but grazing (the term used for frequent snacking) that's the culprit, says Dr Debasish Basu, senior diabetologist at Apollo Multispeciality Hospital, Kolkata. "It's like a rollercoaster ride with sugar spikes and crashes; it doesn't give the body adequate metabolic rest. Grazing reduces fat-burning periods and stores fat instead." This explains the pot belly that comes with snacking. Munching on carb-heavy foods keeps the body in a near-constant state of digestion and insulin release, says functional nutritionist Tanya Malik Chawla. "Over time, this promotes acidity bloating, insulin resistance and metabolic fatigue."

A classic example of grazing is one of Dr Basu's patients, a 38-year-old executive who came to him with central weight gain and an elevated HbA1c (three-month blood sugar average). "He used to have milk tea with sucrose and biscuits four to five times daily apart from meals. A glucose monitor found repeated blood sugar spikes and insulin fluctuations, leading to rising fasting insulin and visceral fat over time," says Dr Basu. When the snacking was replaced with three balanced meals, increased protein intake, and a 12-14 hour overnight fasting window, his HbA1c improved within six weeks, fasting insulin reduced, and waistline slimmed.

Historically Indian diets had long gaps between meals, physical labour and minimally processed foods, says Dr Mithal. But a growing 'snackification' has led to quick, ready-to-eat packaged snacks replacing home-cooked meals due to busy lifestyles. "The abundance of cheap, addictive snacks with high salt, sugar and fat content makes portion control harder. Food delivery apps and marketing of processed foods further drive unhealthy snacking habits, especially among the youth. Lack of exercise makes it more problematic," he adds.

When hunger isn't the trigger

But why do we snack so much? It's not always about hunger, says Dr Sweta Budyal, senior consultant, diabetology and endocrinology, at Fortis Hospital, Mumbai. "Sometimes, it's driven by boredom, emotional stress and easy food availability. In some cases, it's simply habit." People react differently to stress, says Dr Adarsh K S, consultant endocrinologist at Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru. "Some might lose their appetite, while others might overeat or eat more frequently, which can lead to weight gain."

Stress eating is a common coping mechanism, but not a healthy one, warns Dr Budyal. "It typically veers towards calorie-dense, nutrient-poor foods high in refined carbs and unhealthy fats. When stress eating becomes a long-term pattern, it greatly raises the risk of obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. For long-term metabolic health, one must develop healthier ways to manage stress rather than turning to junk food," she says.

...And when hunger plays a role

Stress or not, for Chawla, frequent snacking boils down to a flawed Indian dietary pattern that ignores the most satiating macronutrient: protein. "Frequent snacking is often a symptom of that flawed diet, not the root cause. Many people snack not because they lack willpower, but because their meals don't meet their biological needs," she says. A 2021 Lancet study highlighted how Indian diets are abysmally low in protein compared to optimal metabolic needs. "When meals lack protein and fibre, people get quicker hunger and cravings, which creates a vicious cycle of 'repeated eating and metabolic stress,'" Chawla adds.

Another study by Centre for Chronic Disease Control, Delhi and the Public Health Foundation of India, published in The Journal of Nutrition, looked at snacking behaviour in Indian adults and its metabolic risk factors to find a high consumption of both savoury and sweet snacks, irrespective of gender and urban-rural divide. The researchers called for better food policies to ensure healthier food options that would automatically reduce snacking tendencies.

Switching off longevity genes

Experts say Indians are already genetically prone to insulin resistance, abdominal obesity and type 2 diabetes. "Thus, excessive carb-rich snacking may have a greater metabolic impact on Indians, promoting visceral fat and accelerating beta-cell fatigue by increasing the insulin burden," says Dr Basu.

Besides, eating throughout the day makes you age faster by 'switching off' longevity genes such as sirtuins (SIRT1, SIRT3), says Dr Mithal. Sirtuins cut inflammation, repair DNA and counteract oxidative stress to slow down the ageing process. Frequent snacking also disrupts longevity pathways like autophagy, a vital housekeeping process that happens during fasting windows to maintain cellular health.

It's less about the genes and more about our modern lifestyle, feels Chawla, who is also a biohacking coach. "Genes only load the gun; it's your poor habits that pull the trigger," she says, adding that intermittent fasting can be a powerful tool to reset metabolism, but only if done keeping one's biomarkers in mind.

WHY WE NEED METABOLIC REST

■ **A breather:** Digestion and insulin release can take a break, body can burn fat instead

■ **Longevity:** When we sleep, body goes through autophagy, a clean-up process that recycles damaged proteins and cellular debris, and thereby extends lifespan. Late dinners and midnight snacks disrupt these longevity-related processes

■ **Cutting diabetes risk:** Indians are genetically predisposed to diabetes and unhealthy eating, through snacking on processed foods and those high in sugar, is a trigger for it. Spacing out meals gives the body more time to process insulin and promotes better gut health

GOOD SNACKS (protein and fibre keep you full for longer) VS BAD SNACKS (carbs, sugar, bad fats make you snack more)

GOOD SNACKS	BAD SNACKS
Fruits, seeds	Biscuits
Nuts (controlled portions)	Chips
Roasted chana, chickpeas	Fried namkeen
Sprouts, salads	Sugary food, beverages
Plain yogurt, Greek yogurt	Refined carb snacks
Paneer cubes, boiled eggs	Ultra-processed foods

2-3 balanced meals with all five food groups (fruits, vegetables, protein, grains, dairy) make snacking unnecessary. If you must snack, go for healthy nibbles not more than twice a day

LATEST IN HEALTH RESEARCH

Ultra-processed foods work the same way as cigarettes

Ultra-processed food (UPF)and cigarettes are produced much the same way, with manufacturers optimising 'doses' that determine how soon they will act on the brain's reward pathways, researchers from Harvard, University of Michigan and Duke University have found, reports The Guardian. The study, published in Milbank Quarterly, called out healthwashing labels like 'low fat' and 'sugar-free' and sought stricter policy level regulations as UPFs are designed to trigger addiction like tobacco.

Obesity makes it harder to recover from infections

A new study in Lancet has found obesity may contribute to more than 10% of infection-related deaths, according to Fox News. Researchers studied medical data of around 5.5 lakh adults in UK and Finland over 14 years to find that obese patients were 70% more prone to being hospitalised or dying from an infection. "Obesity weakens defences against infections, resulting in more serious diseases. People may not get infected more easily, but recovery is clearly harder," study lead and professor Mika Kivimaki told Fox News.

Laser angioplasty: Not the magic wand many heart patients imagine it to be

Umesh Isalkar | TNN

One often hears patients walking into urban hospitals, insisting on a 'laser angioplasty'. It conjures images of a laser beam magically zapping away blockages, much like a skin laser treatment done in beauty clinics.

It's anything but that, say cardiologists. "People think a laser procedure means there will be no stent and no invasion, just a quick zap like a cosmetic laser. But that is not the case at all," says Pune-based senior cardiologist Dr Suhas Hardas.

TECHNOLOGY FOR HEALTH

An Excimer Laser Coronary Atherectomy (ELCA), commonly known as laser angioplasty, requires the same catheter-based route through the groin or wrist as a regular balloon angioplasty. The difference lies only in the tool: a specialised catheter that delivers ultraviolet pulses to vaporise soft clots and calcium deposits inside arteries. A wire still needs to be passed inside the artery, a balloon follows, and a stent may still be required. "The laser is only one part of the process," adds Dr Hardas.

The very idea of a laser dissolving a clot has a futuristic appeal, with hospitals in metropolitan cities reporting a marked rise in demand for the technology. But experts stress that while a laser is powerful, its use is best reserved for highly specific situations. "For example, if a patient in his 20s or 30s suffers a heart attack because of large clots but without major cholesterol deposits, the laser can effectively vaporise those clots and restore blood flow. It's one of the best uses of this technology," says Dr Deepak Davidson, chief cardiologist at Caritas Hospital and Heart Institute in Kottayam, Kerala.

Patients who have undergone angioplasty and develop a new blockage later also benefit from the laser procedure. Though rare, the laser can also help clear in-stent blockages years after the initial procedure. In significant calcification where the balloon fails to negotiate the blockage, lasers can make a difference. However, ELCA is not meant for very severe and calcified plaques. In such cases, atherectomy devices that drill through rock-hard calcium remain the tools of choice. Also, total blockages where even a wire fails to cross remain unsuitable for laser use.

It's also expensive and not a substitute for conventional angioplasty. "It's one more tool in our box. It works beautifully in the right case, but is not needed for most patients," Dr Hardas points out.

A laser procedure may appeal more to heart patients but it is skill and judgement, not just the shine of technology that saves lives.

Balloon procedure & Laser procedure

SIMILARITIES

■ Both widen narrowed arteries by clearing blockages. Both minimally invasive, accessing artery via catheter inserted in groin or wrist

■ Both often lead to stent placement and have comparable procedure duration and recovery times for patients

■ Laser might fail where balloon succeeds, or vice-versa, but general outcomes are comparable. Both have low complication rates (1%)

DIFFERENCES

■ Balloon procedure inflates balloon to push plaque against artery walls. Laser uses ultraviolet light to vaporise plaque and blood clots

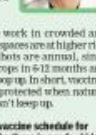
■ Laser is for hard, calcified, or complex lesions where balloons might struggle to expand

■ Balloon procedure uses a standard balloon catheter, whereas laser procedure uses a specialised laser-tipped one

Vaccines recharge immunity batteries in adults

ASK THE DOCTOR

Adults often skip their vaccine shots, thinking they are stuff for kids. But when immunity fades, vaccines work like chargers to boost the system. Infectious diseases expert **Dr V Ramasubramanian** from Apollo Hospitals, Chennai talks to **Pushpa Narayan** about poor awareness, biases and costs, and the need for a strong health policy for adult vaccines



■ **Why should adults take their vaccinations seriously?**
It's because adults need them too, especially as we age. The body's immune system builds up slowly after birth and keeps maturing through your first 15-18 years. That's why kids get frequent infections — the system is still learning the ropes. With every germ the body encounters, it gets stronger. But with age, the immune system in most people starts to weaken. We call this immunosenescence — it's like the defences get rusty, making it harder to fight infections, cancer, or other threats. Vaccines act like a recharge for those fading batteries, boosting response just when needed. Plus, many childhood vaccines wear off and need boosters by rule. Tetanus shots must be taken once every 10 years. Pneumococcal vaccines go to kids first, but adults over 50 or with diabetes, hypertension, lung, kidney, or heart disease get another dose. Adults who work in crowded and closed office spaces are at higher risk of flu. Flu shots are annual, since immunity drops in 6-12 months and new strains pop up. In short, vaccines keep adults protected when natural immunity can't keep up.

■ **Is there a vaccine schedule for adults, just like there is one for kids?**
Absolutely. Major health bodies from the US, UK, and other developed countries lay out baseline schedules for adult vaccines by age group, covering routine shots tailor-made for their own populations. Annual flu vaccines are for all ages, and tetanus-diphtheria boosters are once every 10 years. HPV is recommended up to 45, and shingles starting at 50. Doctors can also customise vaccines based on one's job, lifestyle or health issues. A person working in a lab around meningococcus — the bacteria that causes meningococcal disease, either meningitis (brain/spinal swelling) or sepsis in the blood — requires a targeted shot. Travellers might need a yellow fever, typhoid, hepatitis A, or Japanese encephalitis shot, depending on the place of visit.

■ **How many Indians get routine adult vaccines?**
Hardly any — rates hover under 5% for most vaccinations. Hepatitis B in adults is about 1.5%, annual flu less than 0.5%. Pneumococcal stands at 0.8% and typhoid conjugate is around 1%. The gap is mainly due to awareness. People don't grasp the death toll and hospitalisations that these infections can cause. The Covid pandemic flipped that and fear drove people to get vaccinated. Everyone witnessed infections, ERs, and funerals. Most diseases today are under-tested, underdiagnosed, and under-reported. Take typhoid, where the outdated Widal test lingers in most parts of India despite modern guidelines rejecting it.

Also, vaccines aren't in Indian medical curricula or doctors' guidelines, unlike US/Europe schedules. All these leave people with some biases. First is optimism bias — they believe vaccines are not required as they've less likely to get sick or have bad reactions. Second is confirmation bias — when people read or hear about rare vaccine side effects, they seek stories confirming fears and ignore data on benefits or disease risks. Social media amplifies this, making hesitancy harden into cognitive dissonance. People debate about the vaccine but reject vaccine information and stick to thoughts like "natural immunity is best".

■ **Vaccinated adults still get infected or hospitalised. Does this make people even more hesitant?**
Exactly. People see breakthrough cases and think vaccines fail. No vaccine offers 100% protection. When we say 90% efficacy, it doesn't mean 90 out of 100 people are fully shielded. It means severity, hospitalisation and death drop by 90% across the board. People might still catch infections, even land in hospital, but risks plummet. Covid vaccines didn't stop all infections, but those fully vaccinated did well. Vaccines aren't a total guarantee, they slash complications, hospital stays and fatalities. That's a big deal, especially for those at high risk.

■ **Does cost play a role in hesitancy?**
Absolutely. A single dose of shingles vaccine can cost Rs 10,000. A family must spend at least Rs 40,000 to get two people fully vaccinated with two doses. Doctors' bodies have urged insurance firms to cut premiums for vaccinated adults. But India needs a robust adult vaccination policy too. ICMR plans a pilot on flu/pneumococcal shots for over-65s in key areas. It will show cost-savings. Govt may roll out adult vaccines post results. For now: get them if you can afford to or if your doctor flags a risk.

■ **Do vaccines work in adults the same way as in children?**
Yes, but adult responses vary by age and comorbidities. Still, get vaccinated — it's worth it. Chickenpox is milder in kids, but a vaccination prevents shingles risk later. Hepatitis A hits kids lightly too, but adults face high death odds from liver failure. Vaccines cut those severe outcomes sharply in adults, just as they shield kids from the full brunt.

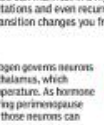
TIPS, TRENDS & TECH

KNOW YOUR VITAL STATS

Palpitations to low libido, menopause changes explained

Hot flushes are only the tip of the iceberg. Hormonal changes around menopause can manifest in a myriad ways, from a dry mouth to palpitations and even recurrent UTI. Here's how this midlife transition changes you from head to toe

BRAIN



■ **Hot flushes:** Estrogen governs neurons in the brain's hypothalamus, which regulates body temperature. As hormone levels fluctuate during perimenopause and ultimately fall, those neurons can start overreacting

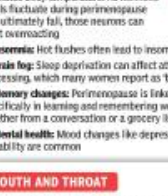
■ **Insomnia:** Hot flushes often lead to insomnia

■ **Brain fog:** Sleep deprivation can affect attention and cognitive processing, which many women report as 'brain fog'

■ **Memory changes:** Perimenopause is linked to memory changes, specifically in learning and remembering word-based information, whether from a conversation or a grocery list

■ **Mental health:** Mood changes like depression, anxiety and irritability are common

MOUTH AND THROAT



■ **Dry mouth:** As estrogen levels drop, many women experience a dry mouth. The lack of saliva can change sense of taste and also affect oral health

■ **Vocal changes:** Declining estrogen can affect hydration, mucous membranes and muscle tone in the larynx, which can make the voice deeper or hoarse

■ **Sleep apnea:** Many women gain weight and lose muscle. Added fat in the neck, less estrogen for receptors in the epiglottis, and a loss of muscle tone in the tongue can combine to raise sleep apnea risk

HEART

■ **Heart attack, stroke:** Cholesterol and blood pressure increase, arteries get stiffer and risk of heart attack and stroke rises. After menopause, women's risk of heart disease is about equal to men's

■ **Palpitations:** Fluctuations in estrogen can also contribute to heart palpitations, a sensation that your heart is racing or beating irregularly

■ **Headaches:** Headaches may arise in part because blood vessels constrict as they lose elasticity, increasing blood pressure and reducing blood flow

METABOLISM

■ **Weight gain:** Many women begin to accumulate more fat in the abdomen and less in the hips and thighs. It's common to gain around 2-4 kg owing to estrogen drop. And poor sleep can increase one's hunger

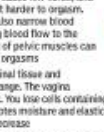
■ **Insulin resistance:** Menopause increases insulin resistance and can raise diabetes risk

BONES, MUSCLES

■ **Low bone density:** With less estrogen, bone breakdown starts to outpace bone building, leading to lower bone density. Some women may have losses of 15% or more

■ **Aches and pains:** Joint pain and body aches are also common. May stem from loss of moisture and elasticity in connective tissues like tendons

GENITALS, URINARY TRACT



■ **Vaginal dryness:** Infections, vaginal discomfort and sexual changes are common. A hallmark is vaginal dryness, since estrogen is important for moisturising tissues. Less lubrication can make sex painful. Dryness and irritation can cause pain while sitting or walking

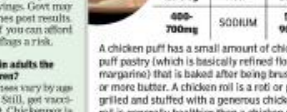
■ **Low libido:** Declining estrogen and other factors often cause low libido, and many women find it harder to orgasm. Estrogen loss can also narrow blood vessels, decreasing blood flow to the clitoris. Weakening of pelvic muscles can reduce intensity of orgasms

■ **Vaginal flora:** Vaginal tissue and microbiome also change. The vagina becomes less acidic. You lose cells containing a compound called glycogen that promotes moisture and elasticity. Useful bacteria called lactobacilli decrease

■ **UTI:** All of this can combine to create dry, irritated tissue in which harmful bacteria can thrive. That can lead to recurrent urinary tract infections, leakage and frequent urination

Source: NYT News Service

WHICH ONE IS HEALTHIER?



Chicken puff	1 piece	Chicken roll
350-500	CALORIES	250-400
25-35g	CARBS	20-40g
8-15g	PROTEIN	18-25g
20-30g	FAT	10-20g
400-700mg	SODIUM	500-900mg

A chicken puff has a small amount of chicken filling inside a puff pastry (which is basically refined flour and butter/margarine) that is baked after being brushed with an egg wash or more butter. A chicken roll is a roti or paratha, pan fried or grilled and stuffed with a generous chicken filling. A chicken roll is generally healthier than a chicken puff, especially if made with whole grain or healthy wraps. A chicken puff is more of a treat, but is pro-inflammatory and high in trans fats.

Source: **Ishi Khosla**, clinical nutritional and author, 40 Code to Good Health

■ Email your feedback to **toihealth.plus@timesofindia.com** with Health Plus in the subject line. Please mention your name and city

Head Office, IT (Governance & Excellence) Department, Star House-3, PNB-BOI Tower C-20, G Block, 10th Floor, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051.
E-mail: HeadoffIT.IT@bankofindia.bank.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR

Procurement of Procurement, Deployment, Integration and Maintenance of Domain Name System

Ref No: BOI:HO:IT(G&E):DNS:0885, Dated 13.02.2026
GeM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7238678, Dated 13.02.2026

The captioned RFP is available on Bank's corporate website www.bankofindia.bank.in under "Tender" section & GeM portal. Subsequent changes if any, will henceforth be uploaded on the Bank's website & GeM portal. The last date of bid submission: 27.02.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking a title investigation on the immovable properties more fully described in the 'Schedule' hereto and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Properties". The said title due diligence is being conducted for and on behalf of our Client who is desirous of entering into certain transaction in relation to the Schedule Properties. Mrs. Usa Reddy (wife of Mr. Mahesha Anem Dasnath and daughter of Dr. Gunamurthy V. Reddy) and Mrs. Asha Reddy (wife of Mr. Jay Pawan and daughter of Dr. Gunamurthy V. Reddy) ("Owners"), have represented to our Client that they are the absolute joint owners of the Schedule Properties and have unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any persons other than the present Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claims or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claims, if any, over the Schedule Properties or submit their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claims or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof to support such claims or objections and must be delivered to us at the address given below within a period of 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claims or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners hereinbove any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of the following immovable properties measuring 8 Acres 13 Guntas (excluding 28 Guntas of 'B' Kharab Land) comprised in lands bearing Survey Nos. 60 and 61, situated at Chagalatti Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, more fully described in the table below:

Sl No.	Survey No.	Extent			Boundaries			
		Acres	Guntas	Kharab Gr Guntas	East by	West by	North by	South by
1.	60	04	04	13	Mamashali Village Border	Survey No. 61	Survey Nos. 59 and 58	Road.
2.	61	04	09	15	Survey No. 60.	Road.	Survey No. 58	

Sd/-
SKM Legal, Prestige Lake,
No. 203, 2nd Floor, No. 77 & 77/1, Brunton Road, Bangalore – 560025. Tel: 080 66548776

Date: 18.02.2026
Place: Bangalore

UTTAR PRADESH TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
11/235, Parwati Bagia Road, Soutergaj,
KANPUR-208001
Email: directoruptti@gmail.com Website: www.uptti.ac.in Mob: 8604903584
ADVERTISEMENT No. 01/2026/UPTTI/208 DATED: 16.02.2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for the post of **Director, Uttar Pradesh Textile Technology Institute, Kanpur** in the entry pay level-14 and allowances admissible as per UP Govt. norms. The tenure of the post is for 5 years. For more details and guidelines, visit the college website **www.uptti.ac.in**. Last date for receipt of application is **20th March, 2026 (Friday).**

(Member Secretary, BoG)

MSME-TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Process & Product Development Centre
An Autonomous body under ministry of MSME, Govt. of India
Treasury Nagar, Agra - 282004 (U.P.)
EDC Bengaluru organise online training program on

MASTERING POWER BI for DATA ANALYTICS

COURSE CONTENT:
- **Module 1:** Introduction to Power BI Power BI overview, interface, and setup
- **Module 2:** Data Sources & Loading-Connect to Excel, databases, web, etc.-Clean and transform data using Power Query
- **Module 3:** Data Modeling-Table relationships and DAX basics
- **Module 4:** Visualization-Create and customize charts and visuals
- **Module 5:** Advanced Visuals-Drill-downs, hierarchies, and custom visuals
- **Module 6:** Dashboards-Design interactive dashboards with live data
- **Module 7:** Power BI Service-Publish, share reports, and manage gateways
- **Module 8:** Data Analysis with DAX-Advanced DAX, time intelligence, forecasting
- **Module 9:** Security in Power BI Roles, permissions, and row-level security
- **Module 10:** Integration-Connect Power BI with Excel, SharePoint, Teams

Date: 21st, 22nd, 28th February 2026 & 1st March 2026
TIME: 06.00 PM - 09.00 PM FEES: 3,540/- (Incl. of GST)
WEBSITE: www.ppdcagra.dimsme.gov.in
CONTACT: 6363055419 / 8073288128
For Registration
CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED

"India is going to have an extraordinary trajectory with AI."

In an exclusive interview with ET, Google CEO Sundar Pichai, who is making a $185-billion bet on AI, speaks about the transformative technology, its impact on work as we know it and how countries like India can help shape the future.

Read the full conversation today in The Economic Times.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

The world's finest minds. Only in ET.

To subscribe to The Economic Times, ask your vendor, scan the QR or call 1800 1200 004.

POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH (PGICH)
Sector-30, Noida-201303
www.sewaprogrammes@gmail.com, Tele: +91-120-2418052

Advt. No. PGICH_Noida/NON/Tender/2026/48 Date: 17.02.2026

Notice Inviting bid on GeM Portal

Bids are invited for purchase of below mentioned items through GeM portal in two-parts comprising of (A) Technical bid & (B) Financial bid from OEM/authorized dealers of OEM. For detailed information please visit the GeM Portal website: https://gem.gov.in

Sl. No.	Item name	GeM bid no.
01	Various Instruments of Dental	GeM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7236836
02	High Resolution Manometry system	GeM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7236330
03	CRE Balloon Dilator set	GeM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7246612

The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any offer partially or fully without assigning any reason, thereof.

Director

MSME-TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Process & Product Development Centre
(Under the aegis of MSME, Govt. of India)
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India
Treasury Nagar, Agra - 282004 (U.P.)
Extension Centre: Chandrakala Organisation

Online program on
Business Development with Generative AI

COURSE CONTENT: • Generative AI Fundamentals for Business Development • AI for Market Research & Opportunity Identification • AI-Driven Lead Generation Strategy • AI for Strategic Business Planning • Data-Driven Decision Making with AI • Responsible & Secure Use of AI in Business Development • Final Capstone: Develop a complete AI-powered BD action plan

Batch Timing: 25, 26, 27 Feb & 1, 2 March 2026
Time slot: 07 PM to 09 PM
Fees/ head: 3540/- (including GST)
Contact Number: 8944971623, 8129988725
Website: ppdcagra.dc.msme.gov.in
Scan QR for Online Registration
CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
HARBOUR WORKS DIVISION No. 1
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
e-TCN No.CRHWD/ACCTS-120/SM. (04.13.02.2026)

Name of the work : "Development of New Pier adjacent to the RCMP pier near Old Railway building towards Gate No.1 beside Harbour area". Put to tender value: Rs.3,47,40,515.26 plus GST as applicable. Last date & time of submission of tender Bids downloaded on 09.03.2026 up to 17.10 Hrs. For details, please log on to the Website: https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app

Executive Engineer,
Harbour Works Division No.1, PPA.
PPA/HW/NIT/2026-27/28, dt. 16/02/2026

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL ASC C & C
(Affiliated to CBSE Delhi)
ASC Centre & College, Lower Agaram Road, Bangalore-07
Tel : 08025550677 / 9740703550 www.apeasc.edu.in

JOB OPPORTUNITIES – TEACHING ON ADHOC PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO CANDIDATES QUALIFIED IN AWES CSB/SST EXAM AND CTET/TET EXAM

Ser No	Post and Subject	Qualification required
1	PRT: English, Physics	Post Graduate in the subject and B.ed/M.Ed (from an NCTE-recognised institution) with minimum 50% marks in each.
2	TGT: English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Science, Mathematics, Social Science and Science	Graduate in the subject and B.ed (from an NCTE-recognised institution) with minimum 50% marks in each.
3	TGT: Counsellor	Post-graduation in psychology or graduate with a diploma in counselling
4	TGT: Physical Education	Graduate in Physical Education/ BPEd with min 50% marks (Male candidate only)
5	PRT: All subjects	B.El. Ed (2 yr Dip in Elementary Education, D.El. Ed from a NCTE-recognised institution with min 50% marks in each. AND Teachers who are already in service with Army Public Schools (APS) and those with a B.Ed. degree and have applied for the Bridge Course in Elementary Education.
6	PRT: Computer Science	Graduate in the subject (B.Tech/BCA/B.Sc in Computer Science) and 2 yr Dip in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) with minimum 50% marks.
7	PRT: Western Dance	Graduate in the subject with min 50% marks.
8	PRT: Physical Education	Graduate in Physical Education/ BPEd with min 50% marks (Male candidate only)
9	PRT: Music (Instrumental)	Graduate in the subject with Min 50% marks.
10	Assistant Teacher for Class Pre-Primary I & II	Graduate with B.El.Ed (2 yr Dip in Elementary Education (D.El. Ed) with min 50% marks in each.
11	Co-Ordinator (Pre-primary wing)	Graduate or above in any discipline. A teaching degree B.El. Ed (Elementary Education or NTT (Mandatory). At least 3 years' experience of administrative charge of a recognized middle school or higher classes. At least 5 years' experience as Head of School (Headmistress/ Coordinator/ Supervisor of Primary wing of a recognised high school or APPS.
12	Pre-primary teachers (Nursery/LKG/UKG)	Diploma of minimum two year duration in Nursery Teacher Education / Pre-School Education / Early Childhood Education Pgme (D.E.C.Ed) or a B.Ed (Nursery) from any NCTE recognised institution. AND Teachers who are already in service NTT and ECCE qualification obtained from IGNOU / NIOS / any other NCTE recognised institution.
13	PPRT: Physical Education	Graduate in Physical Education/ BPEd with min 50% marks (Male candidate only)
14	Activity Teacher Pre-Primary	PUC/Class XII with National Teacher Training Course or 2 year Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) with min 50% marks in each.
15	Receptionist	Graduate with good written & communication skills in English and Hindi
16	Librarian	B.Lib Science or Graduate with a diploma in Library Science from a recognised institute, and computer literate with minimum three years of experience
17	Science Lab Attendant	10 + 2 with Science & Computer literate
18	Computer & Stem Lab Attendant	10 + 2 with Science & Computer literate with experience in handling Stem or Computer Lab.
19	Peon	Preferred 10 Std pass
20	Safai Karamachari	Preferred 10th pass
21	Driver	Experienced, holding light motor vehicle license with five years' experience in driving Light vehicle. Ex-serviceman will be preferred.
22	Electrician	10+2 with 3 years of experience
23	Full Time Gardener	Preferred 10th pass

Eligibility:
(a) Age: below 40 years (may be relaxed in case of teachers with experience)
(b) Computer literacy is mandatory for all the posts except Driver & Electrician.
(c) CTET/TET qualification is mandatory for TGT/PRT.
(d) No TA/DA admissible.
(e) Application form can be downloaded from **www.apeasc.edu.in** and posted/submitted to the school with a DD of Rs.250/- in favour of APS ASC C & C.
(f) Applications with detailed bio-data, self-attested copies of certificates and a photocopy of the Screen Card of CTET (if available) should be addressed to: The Principal, Army Public School, ASC C & C, Lower Agaram Road, Bangalore-07 & should reach the school office by post/by hand, latest by **28th February 2026, 1500hrs**. Applications will not be accepted if received late. Incomplete applications without supporting documents and applications sent by email will be rejected.
(g) Only shortlisted candidates will get an intimation by the **28th February 2026** to attend the interviews, which will be scheduled in the First week of March 2026.
(h) Army Public School ASC C & C is a private unaided school.

PRINCIPAL

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 48 SWL 2025-26
Dated : 10-02-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Hubballi Division: Proposed Construction of Station Building (including SM Room, IPS Room, Maintenance Room, etc) at 03 Stations Caranzol (CRZ), Duth Sagar (DDS) and Sonalium (LIM) Stations.	Rs. 2,39,11,478/-

Earnest Money : ₹ 5820000.00 Date of closing Tender: 09.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs.

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15.00 Hrs on 09-03-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination
PUBWORKS/PROWORKS/2025-26 Hubballi

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season tickets, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a 3% discount.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

Description of work: Part-A :- Provision of 5.00 KM RCC boundary wall along the track on approaches of Gwalior station at AGC and in main line under ADEN/GWL. **Part-B :-** Provision of 5.00 KM RCC boundary wall along the track on approaches of Gwalior station at VGL and in main line under ADEN/GWL.

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost
JHS-ENGG-N-2025-26	₹ 6230000.17

Earnest Money : ₹ 062300.00/-
Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 12 Months.

Tender online can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 09.03.2026. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in 34026(DG)

find us on railways | @CPRO/N | www.indianrailways.gov.in

UP Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.
Chief Engineer (MPS), Shakti Bhawan, Lucknow

E-Tender No.: 04/E-Tender/Jal Vidyut/2026
REQUEST FOR SELECTION

Online Bids are invited for "SELECTION OF DEVELOPER FOR RENOVATION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE & TRANSFER ON RIGHT TO USE BASIS OF SMALL HYDRO POWER PLANTS AT UPPER GANGA CANAL (U.J.)"

Tender Cost : Rs. 10,000.00 + GST @ 18% | **EMD : Rs. 4 Crore**

Last Date for uploading Bid : 23.03.2026

For more information and regular updates regarding Bids kindly regularly visit: www.etender.up.nic.in

(Erstwhile : U.P. Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.)

"Save Electricity for Nation"

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Notice No.: SER-CHE-BNCM-JSG-2x25 KV, Date: 16.02.2026. For and on behalf of the President of India, Chief Electrical Engineer (Project), South Eastern Railway, 11, Convent Lane, Beliaghata, Kolkata-700015 invites e-tender for the following work: **Name of work and its location:** Design, supply, erection, testing and commissioning for upgradation of Electric traction system from 1 x 25 KV to 2 x 25 KV traction system for Bondamunda (Excl.) / Jharsuguda (Incl.) section of Chakradharpur Division of South Eastern Railway to meet 5000 MT loading target. **Completion period of the work:** 24 months. **Approximate cost of the work:** ₹ 156,81,23,784.46. **Bid Security:** ₹ 78,45,000. **Validity of offer:** 120 days from the date of opening of tender. **Last date of receiving queries:** 04.03.2026. **Pre-bid meeting:** 06.03.2026 at 11.30 hrs. **Physical submission of all documents:** 06.04.2026. **Closing date of tender:** 07.04.2026 (14.00 hrs. IST). Website particular where complete details of tender can be seen: **www.ireps.gov.in**. **Cost of Tender Documents:** Nil.

(PR-1187)

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES,
No.4, Seshadri Road, Bangalore -560009,
Phone:080-22262263, E-mail : phs.prisons-kar@gov.in

No: DGPCSB/A023/MODR/45/2025-ADMIN/78505 Date: 17.02.2026

Tender Notification

The Director General of Police, Prisons and Correctional Services, Bangalore invited the following tender for Supply, installation and maintenance of Body Worn Cameras & Docking Stations for various Prisons as under,

Sl. No	Tender No. and Date	Approx. Tender value
01	PCSD/2025-26/MDX086, Dt.16.02.2026	Rs.100.00 Lakhs

The information of Pre-bid meeting, last date and time for tender submission and other details can be obtained at e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For more information, please contact the above office.

Sd/-
Director General of Police
Prisons and Correctional services
Karnataka State

DIP/RCP/5666/SHIRDI SAI/2025-26

MSME-TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Process & Product Development Centre
(Under the aegis of MSME, Govt. of India)
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India
Treasury Nagar, Agra - 282004 (U.P.)
Extension Centre: Chandrakala Organisation

ONLINE CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM ON

SOLAR ENERGY
Course Content: Introduction to Solar Energy, Global market demand, Radiation, Optimization, Site assessment, Shadow Analysis, PV Module Detail Engineering, Inverter, DC and AC junction Box, Site Safety, Installation Procedures and Maintenance, How to setup a Business, Vendor Registration, Subsidiaries PM-Surya Ghar Scheme, Follow up Local State Government Policy.
Duration: 5 Days
Only Week-days (Monday to Friday)
Start Date: 23rd Feb 2026 | Fee: Rs.4,130/- (Inclusive of GST) | Timing: 07.00 pm to 09.00 pm

EXPORT & IMPORT
MANAGEMENT AND PROCEDURES
Course Content: Foreign Trade Policy and Procedures, Documents and Terms of Payment including Letter of Credit, Export Promotion Councils role, Marine Insurance, Credit risk coverage by ECGC, Shipping line and customs, Customs Duty Calculation, INCOTERMS, Warehousing, Port, Freight Calculation, Incentives related to Exports.
Duration: 5 Days
Only Week-days (Monday to Friday)
Start Date: 23rd Feb 2026 | Fee: Rs.4,130/- (Inclusive of GST) | Timing: 10.00 pm to 00.00 pm

For more Details: 9600776611, 8667359360, 7358887633
E-Certification will be Awarded | Visit us at www.ppdcagra.dimsme.gov.in

---

AIR FORCE SCHOOL
Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560063
(Affiliated to CBSE)
Website: www.airforceschoolyelahanka.com
email: afsyelahanka@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Air Force School Yelahanka invites OTT/AS for the tender through Request For Proposal (RFP) in a sealed cover from interested eligible vendors for Procurement of kitchen items and other items mentioned in Annexure-A, Annexure-B, Annexure-C.

Sl No	Item/Description	Qty
1	Stainless Steel 18 mm gauge and 20 mm thick Glass Jaipur 20 mm thick, 1mm sizes, welding of dimensions made as per drawing, 1 mm sizes, 120 mm height & 1.25 mm height & 1.25 mm (Flat Wire wire mesh)	26
2	Equipment for dose mixer Machine capacity 100 HP/Power Motor (Model Number mix 40 Ltr) for dishwasher 60 HP, 2 Hrs stage mixing, in accessories 60 mm PVC, 60 mm size 1024 mm 1.5, 60 mm (ET) 10 mm	29

The tender fee of 2000/- will be payable in cash/ Bank Draft/Pay Order/Cheque in favour of Air Force School Yelahanka. The tender fee Rs. 10/- (Rupees ten only) should be submitted along with the tender. Last date of Air Force School Yelahanka receive RFP tender is 25 days from the date of publication. Tender will be opened on the same day.

Sl	Item	Quantity
1	Annexure-A Table	15 Nos. (Fifteen) Nos.
2	Annexure-B Table	2 Nos. (Two) Nos.
3	Annexure-C Table	2 Nos. (Two) Nos.
4	Signing of tender/RFP	01 Nos. (One) Nos.
5	Tender/RFP Fee (Non-refundable)	2000/-

The tender/RFP is available in office of Air Force School Yelahanka and also available on website www.airforceschoolyelahanka.com

Sd/ Commandant
Air Force School Yelahanka

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Ref:1) No. FF/ RNR/ATP/PR-1/2025-26/2848 Dt: 16-02-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-3
[Through KPP- portal system]

Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, from eligible bidders who satisfies through CO KPPP platform shall submit the bid as per Ref. 1) two cover Electronic document system for 1. Work under the head of account 4701 for Tender amount of Rs.4.15 (without GST) crores. The details is as follows: Indent No:3315 CALL-3

(1) The contractor car have access to e tender documents for above Tenders From:17-02-2026 to 25-02-2026. 5-00 pm (2) Last Date and time for tender queries before 23-02-2026 Upto 04.00 PM (3) Technical Bid will be opened On 25-02-2026@05-30PM & financial Bid will be opened after the Approval Technical Bid at office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur. Any changes made in the said Notification Corrected /Corrigendum's will be uploaded in the KPP-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P. Div, Ranebennur.

1597

IHMCL
Indian Highways Management Company Limited
(An initiative of National Highways Authority of India)

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

IHMCL brings opportunity for experienced and dynamic individuals to work in Delhi, implementing advanced technologies and shaping the future of National Highways.

Post	Number of Posts	Mode of Recruitment	Pay Grade
Vice President (ITS)	01	Search-cum-Selection Process	As per experience and Market rate or as per IDA Grade E-7 (Rs. 1,00,000 - 2,60,000/-)

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

Essential Qualification: - Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from a recognised University/Institute.

Desirable Qualification: - Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from a recognised University/Institute.

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE: Fifteen (15) years of experience in the field of Computer Science & Information Technology, preferably in Intelligent Advanced Transport System.

Important Note: Candidates who have submitted their applications in response to the earlier advertisement dated 10.01.2026 are already under consideration and need not apply again unless resume is changed in terms of qualifications/experience. Such candidates may apply again with upgraded resume.

1. Eligibility criteria and other conditions may be seen on IHMCL website www.ihmcl.co.in
2. **Last date of submission of online application is 11.03.2026 (upto 6:00 PM).**
4. Corrigendum or addendum or cancellation if any will be published on IHMCL website only.

अधिशासी अभियंता कार्यालय, जल संसाधन अभिवृद्धि विभाग, जयपुर क्षेत्र-द्वितीय, मोती नगर, जयपुर

ई-मेल :- eee.region2jaipur@yahoo.com मोब.नं.- 0141-2702700
कार्यालय - क्षे.द्वि.अ.वि.-2/2025-26/11735-42 दिनांक 13/02/2026

निविदा सूचना

उपरोक्त के सम्बन्ध में पोर्टल की साईट "The Work of Strengthening and Improvement of water supply Distribution Network in the Jurisdiction of Jaipur Nagar Nigam Greater under AMRUT 2.0 District- Jaipur" की लिंक www.eprocure.gov.in पर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की गई है।

निविदा विवरण एवं निविदा प्रपत्र www.eprocure.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

क्रम संख्या	एजेन्सी की	निविदा संख्या	निविदा दिनांक
1	PH-Doorwal-00274	PH-Doorwal-08/141172	26/02/25-26

(मुकेश सैनी)
अधिशासी अभियंता
जल सं. अभि. विभाग, क्षेत्र-द्वितीय, जयपुर

DIPR/C/D100/2025

KARNATAKA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD, KRISHIPETE

SRI R.BUMAMALE DESAI SMARAK BHAVAN, BHARDEWAR KOPPA, HUBALLI-25.
E-mail: grsapmc@rediffmail.com, hanagodi@rediffmail.com Ph: (08392) 237878 / 237776.

No: KSAMBU KP/ ACS/ 636/ 2025-26 Date: 17.02.2026

e-TENDER CUM-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Agricultural Marketing Board's KRISHIPETE is inviting e-tender/e-bidding/e-auction through e-procurement portal from Nationalized & Regional Rural Banks for placing of **Rs.12.80 Crores** (Rupees Twelve Crores and Eighty lakhs Only) for a period of 365 days in Fixed Deposits. The detailed information can be obtained from **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** under the title **Indent No: APMC/2025-26/AUCTION112** or can contact concerned officer (9035484002) on working days at office hours. The last date for participation: **27.02.2026.**

Sd/-
(VENKATESH G.K)
Managing Editor, Krishipete Hubballi

DIPR/DWD/DIR/A/1241/2025-26

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No.:-JHS-WIT/Tender General/22 Date : 13.02.2026

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.: JHS-EM(W)-N-2026-22, **Description of work:** Part- A)- Provision of 5.80 KM RCC boundary wall along the track on approaches of Datia station in main line under ADEN/Line/JHS. **Part-B)-** Provision of 10.40 RCC boundary wall along the track on approaches of Datia station in main line under ADEN/Line/JHS.

Approx Cost : ₹ 9,56,21,945.24 | **Earnest Money :** ₹ 6,28,100.00

Date of closing Tender: 23.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs.

Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 12 Months.

(1) Tender online can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 23.03.2026 (2) For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in 34206 (MG)

f/ North central railway @CPRONCR www.northcentralrailway.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. JHS/Bri/2025-26/15 Date 13.02.2026

E- Tender Notice

By Chief Engineer/Bridge/Line/Jhansi, North Central Railway, Jhansi for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-tenders on the prescribed forms for the under noted work:-

Tender No.:-BI-JHS- 2025-15, **Name of work:** Provision of 08 Nos wide FOB with ramps at DAWO station & 03Nos wide FOB with ramps at KHOP station in LAR-KURU Section of Jhansi Division.

Approx. Cost of work : ₹ 3.47 Crore/- | **Bid Security (Earnest Money) :** ₹52800.00

Date of closing of Tender : 10.03.2026 | **Completion Period :** 12 Months

Eligibility Criteria for Similar work: Fabrication and erection/launching of steel bridges/FOB

Note: (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in, up to 15:00 hrs. on the due to date of tender closing i.e. 10.03.2026. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT-act-2000. (3) Bids are entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (5) Payment of Bid Security (Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or bank guarantee only. (6) In case you are having difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (7) Tender on line can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs. on dated 10.03.2026. 34826(DG)

f/ North central railway @CPRONCR www.northcentralrailway.gov.in

UP Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.
(A U.P. Govt. Enterprises)
CIN: U31901UP1985SGC007135

NOTICE INVITING GLOBAL E-TENDER FOR PUMPED STORAGE PLANT

Tender ID: (E-Tender/Jal Vidyut/2026)	Tender Cost: Rs. 34.00 Lacs + GST @18%	EMD: Rs. 79.66 Crore

Online electronic bids are invited for and on behalf of UPRVUNL, Lucknow (U.P.), hereinafter referred to as "The Employer" through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) basis in Single Stage two part Bidding basis (i.e. Part-I: QR + Technical Bid and Part II: Financial bid) with e-Reverse Auction (e-RA) from eligible bidders for the work as: **"Selection of Developer for Setting up of minimum 640 MW Pumped Hydro Storage Plant (PSP) by using Upper Reservoir at Rihand Dam and Lower Reservoir at Obra Dam at Distt. Sonebhadra (U.P.), India on DBOO basis".**

Complete NIT and Tender Document can be downloaded and submitted through the U.P. Government e-portal www.etenders.gov.in. The last date of submission of online bids is 18.04.2026. The date and time fixed Reverse Auction shall be intimated separately by UPRVUNL. Subsequent amendments, if any, shall be posted only on the aforesaid website. Hence the bidders are advised to visit website regularly.

Chief Engineer (HPS)
email: ce.mpa.jvn@uprvunl.org
(Erstwhile : U.P. Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd.)
"Save Electricity for Nation"

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, TEC, Zone 1 and 2, Bengaluru West City Corporation 19th Main Road, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010
No:BWCC/EE/TEC/TN/96/2025-26 Date: 16-02-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (LIFT)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
The Executive Engineer, TEC, Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC), on behalf of the Commissioner, invites online tenders from eligible and experienced private operators for Hiring, Operation and Maintenance of Using Latest Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines on Per-Kilometre Basis for sweeping of identified roads within the jurisdiction of Bengaluru West City Corporation.

Sl. No.	Description
1.	Hiring, Operation and Maintenance using latest Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines with section of capacity not less then 5 cubic meter and required no of tipper trucks including manpower, fuel, maintenance and all consumables, for sweeping length of 400 km of roads within Bengaluru West City Corporation (Zone 1& 2) limits on per-kilometre payment basis for 10 Vehicle Estimate Cost (Excluding GST) : **₹.96,33,55,680.00,** EMD:**₹.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **₹.95,50,000/-** by e-Bank Guarantee/ Bank Guarantee /FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank

Calendar of Events : (1) Last date & time for queries (Only Through Online) on **23-02-2026** Upto **4:00** pm. (2) Date and Time of Pre Bid meeting will be held on **26-02-2026** upto **3:00** pm (3) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders is **18-03-2026** Upto **4:00** pm. (4) Opening Technical bid on **24-03-2026** at **11:00** am. If Possible next working day (5)Opening Financial bid (if possible) **25-03-2026** at **4:00** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
TEC Division
Bengaluru West City Corporation

Day after SDM arrest, tribals hold sit-in with body of man

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Raipur: A day after the sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) of Rasini town in Chhattisgarh's Balrampur district was arrested in connection with a fatal assault on a tribal man over suspicions of illegal business mining, protesters staged a sit-in with the mortal remains of the victim, demanding compensation and full accountability amid the political fallout of the incident. The protesters left the site on Tuesday evening after putting forward their demand for a compensation of Rs 1 crore, a govt job for the next of kin of the deceased, identified as Ram Naresh Ram, and the immediate dismissal of the SDM.

While police handed over Ram's body to his family after the autopsy, protesters, comprising members of the local tribal community and village representatives, allegedly bypassed the family and paraded the body. By afternoon, protesters parked themselves near the bus stand along with local representatives, pressing for compensation to be secured in kin.

SC criticises petitioners for targeting one set of netas

Restraint Over 'Hate Speech' Must Apply To All Political Parties

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

LEGAL CLARITY

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday criticised 12 'eminent' persons who together filed a PIL "targeting" chief ministers of BJP-ruled states for alleged hate speeches while making a plea for putting in place guidelines to restrain constitutional functionaries and bureaucrats from breaching fidelity to constitutional morality.

Appearing for the petitioners, senior advocate Kapil Sibal told a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi that the country's atmosphere has become toxic because of the hate speeches, and "it is only the SC which can and should remedy it."

However, the CJI-led bench was quick to point out that the petition had selectively named individuals while highlighting the problem. "This petition is definitely targeting certain individuals as it leaves out others who routinely make such hate speeches. Let the petitioners not create an impression that it is targeting certain individuals."

The petitioners, including Roop Rekha Verma, Mohd Adeep, Harsh Mander, Najeeb Jung, John Dayal and Ashok Kumar Sharma had cited the alleged hate speeches of Himanta Biswa Sarma, Yogi Adityanath, Devendra Fadnavis, Pushkar Singh Dhami, Ananthkumar Hegde and Giriraj Singh, all of whom belong to BJP, in addition to certain remarks by some bureaucrats.

"Come with an impartial and neutral petition. The issue is important. Ultimately there must be restraint in speech from all sides. We would like to say all political party functionaries must be mindful of constitutional morality and exercise restraint in their speeches, and any guideline should be applicable across the board," said the CJI.

The bench said there are political parties which brazenly make speeches based on their communal ideology and openly profess hatred. "You have not cited a single example from the other side."

When Sibal said he would delete all references to individuals in the petition, the bench responded by emphasising that it would hear the PIL after the necessary amendments are carried out.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033613,
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 98681-23210, 98681-40120)

Tender Enquiry No. (RfS No.) 06/PSPCL/NRSS/SOLAR/1000MW/2026/SET-0 Dated : 16.02.2026

Office of Dy. CE/NRSS, T-8, NRSE & Thermal (D), Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala-147001, invites bids for purchase of 1000 MW Solar Power through competitive bidding process (followed by e-reverse auction) from 1 MW to 5 MW Grid connected Solar PV Power Plants located anywhere in Punjab. For detailed NIT and tender specification please refer to https://www.bharat-electronictender.com.
Note : Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://www.bharat-electronictender.com/ only.
C-2/2026, DPR/N, KPR/2026-27/9490

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari

ITT No. EO/MI & GW/BD-Bll/AE/2025-26/2869 Date : 13.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KM-3)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Ballari invited the tender for the work of under **Head of Account CMIDP Sinkpone taluk 4 works in Two Cover System. Minimum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.59.02 lakhs Maximum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.71.24 lakhs** the tenders should download and submit the tenders from date : **13.02.2026 to 21.02.2026 upto 17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bid is on 23.02.2026 at 11.00 hours. Opening of Financial Bid is on 25.02.2026 at 11.00 hours.** Any other information should get by login the website **"KPPP"** website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/1010/KNMC&/2025-26

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR VEER CHANDRA SINGH GARHWALI UTTARAKHAND UNIVERSITY OF HORTICULTURE & FORESTRY BHARSAR (PAURI GARHWAL)

Ref. No.: [illegible] Date: 17.02.2026

Advertisement for Direct Recruitment-AICRP Scientist Posts

Applications are invited in the prescribed to email from eligible candidates for different posts of AICRP Scientist under direct recruitment at VCSG UHF Bharsar.
Interested candidates may visit the UH website www.uhf.ac.in for detailed information and prescribed format.

Registrar

IDBI BANK
IDBI BANK LIMITED
Regd. Off. IDB Tower, MTC Complex, Sector No.1,01 CBD-400614 Cuffe Parade, Mumbai-400 005

(1) RFP For Empanelment of SI / EE Agencies / Consultants for Improvement in Customer Experience in Web & Mobile Application
(2) RFP For Empanelment of Vendors for Supply of Servers, Storages, SAN Switches, LTO Tape and Cleaning Cartridges with Accessories

IDBI Bank invites sealed proposals from eligible bidders for the above RFPs / Solution. Please visit Banks website https://www.idbibank.bank.in (Notices & Tenders) for details.
Note: Any further Addenda / Corrigenda / Extension of dates / Clarifications / Responses to bidders' queries in respect of the above RFPs shall be posted only on Bank's website and no separate notification shall be issued in the newspapers. Bidders are therefore requested to regularly visit Bank's website to keep themselves updated in this regard.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT
(Directorate of Municipal Administration, Chennai-05. Tel: 044-29560407)

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Establishment of Municipal End of Waste/Waste to Energy Plant on a BOPO basis (Rds./Mnd/MAD/WS/BOPO/Solar/1042/2026)

1. Request for Proposal (RFP) is invited from the eligible bidders for Establishment of Municipal End of Waste/Waste to Energy (WTE) Project Cum Scientific Land Fill (SLF) based on a unique Bid of Build Own Operate and Operate Cum Transfer Cum Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (BOPO) model under PPP mode for a concession period of 25 years as per Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0
2. The details to be provided will be obtained from the website www.tntenders.gov.in
3. The entire document shall be downloaded from the website www.tntenders.gov.in, tenderwise.com, www.tntenders.gov.in
4. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 04.03.2026 at 3.00 PM by Government Corporation.
5. The last date for downloading the RFP is 21.03.2026 from and the last date for submitting / submission of the bid is tender closing date and time is 04.04.2026 at 3.00 PM.
6. The new website will be opened on 01.03.2026 at 03.00 PM.
7. The value of tender project, Bid Security (RFP Fee) and the eligibility criteria for the bidders, are given in the bid document.

Chief Engineer
Directorate of Municipal Administration, Chennai-05.
DIPR/1158/TENDER/2025

Government of Uttarakhand, Department of Higher Education
Dehradun, Dated 13 February, 2026

NOTICE FOR INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR OF SRI DEV SUMAN UNIVERSITY, SUDHOWALA, TEHSIL-DOIWALA, DISTRICT-DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand Government has constituted the appointment for the post of Vice Chancellor at Sri Dev Suman University, Sudowala Village, Tehsil-Doiwala, District-Dehradun under provisions mentioned in Section 10(1) of the Sri Dev Suman Uttarakhand University Act, 2011 and as per conditions stipulated in UGC Notification dated 18.07.2018. Applications are invited for the appointment on the one post of Vice Chancellor in the academic year 2026-27. The Vice Chancellor's salary is presumed to be of 2.25 Lakh per month.

2. The Vice Chancellor will be appointed from individuals possessing the highest level of efficiency, integrity, morality, and commitment to the institution. Eligible candidates must have at least 10 years of experience as a professor or 15 years of experience as a professor in 10 years of administrative leadership experience in a recognized research or educational administrative organization. The applicant must be a citizen of India and must not have any criminal record.

3. Only those individuals who have the qualifications mentioned above are eligible to be considered for the position.

4. Applicants who meet the above conditions must submit their application along with all relevant records, including proof of date of birth, educational records, and experience in the specified positions. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Required documents include a Bio-data of Professional and salary-related documents. The application and supporting documents should be submitted in the prescribed format. Completed applications must be received within 15 days from the date of this notice, i.e., by 28.02.2026. Applications can be submitted in person, via speed/registered post to the office of Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of Uttarakhand, First Floor, Subhash Chandra Bose Bhawan, Secretariat Complex, Dr Subhash Road, Dehradun, or submitted through e-mail to shikshasachiv@uttarakhand.gov.in or shikshaudyog@gmail.com.

5. Supporting documents and Qualifications for the post of Vice Chancellor will be calculated as on 31.01.2026. Applications that are incomplete or not received within the prescribed format and deadline will not be considered.

Marks in Matriculation	Marks in Graduation	Age as on 01.01.2026	Educational Qualification	Qualification Required	Years of Experience in Teaching/Research/Administration	Teaching/Research Experience	Administrative Experience	Research/Publication Experience	Publications/Patents	Recent Work
						Post	Duration	Post	Duration	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Higher Education Department, Government Uttarakhand

29th NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Subject:- INDIAN ART & CULTURE.

The 29th National Photography Competition has been organized by the Gujarat State Lalit kala Academy under the Sports, Youth and Cultural Activities Department. The theme of this competition is the **INDIAN ART & CULTURE.** This competition will be conducted completely online, no need to send photo print. The competition will be held in two categories i.e. black & white and color. In this competition, the photographer can send a maximum of five works in both the sections for the competition. Eight prizes will be announced in each category. And an exhibition of works selected by the judges will be held. These artworks have to be submitted online on the website of Gujarat State Lalit kala Academy from **23 February 2026 to 05 March 2026** by filling the online application form given on the website **gujaratstatelalitkalaacademy.org** along with the photos of the artwork and necessary details within the prescribed time limit. Applications received by post/courier/in person will not be accepted. If required, information can be obtained from office telephone number-079-26425562.

Gujarat State Lalit kala Academy
Gandhinagar

INF/257/2025-26

BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)
बिज, पोधे, टनल एवं बडर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉरपोरेशन लि० उत्तराखण्ड
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य जलसंसाधन विकास निगम लिमिटेड
प्रधान कार्यालय आवास भवन, बस-2, राजकीय आईटीआई, निकट पुलिस के सामने, मसूरी, देहरादून-248001
टेलीफोन:- 0135-2632043, ई-मेल- bridcul@gmail.com, CIN No - U45203UR2008SGC032581

Ref : 311/BRIDCUL-1052/26 Dated: 17/02/2026

E-Tendering (2nd Call)

On behalf of Hon'ble, Governor of Uttarakhand, E-Tenders are invited by Managing Director BRIDCUL, from the Contractors registered with any Govt./Semi Govt./PSU/Nigam in suitable Class & Category for the works given as below:-

S. No.	Ref No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (in lac including GST)	Earnest Money (In Lac)	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Time Period
1	BRIDCUL/HQ.HLDI 82/2025-26	Construction of 480 m & 120 m Span Bridge over Kiroda Nala in Gram Panchayat Nayakgarhi in Tanakpur, Distt Champawat, Uttarakhand.	4276.00	85.52	5000+ 18% GST	18 Months

For above tenders, document download start date is 18.02.2026 and Bid submission end date is 05.03.2026 at 1500 Hrs. The details of e-tender of above works can be obtained directly from website https://uktenders.gov.in
Changes, if any will be intimated only through website https://uktenders.gov.in

General Manager (Civil)-II

डा॰ मनमोहन सिंग
बेंगलूरु सिटी विश्वविद्यालय
Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY

Office of the Registrar, Central College Campus, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru – 560 001. E-mail: registrar@bcu.ac.in

Tender No: BCU/2025-26/SE0025 Date: 17-02-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP portal only)

NAME OF THE WORK	Establishment of Two Language Learning Labs Along with Hardware, Software and Compatible Furniture at Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University On Turnkey Basis
EMD	Rs. 3,50,000/-
LAST DATE FOR QUERIES	21-02-2026 Up to 16.30hrs.
PRE BID MEETING DATE AND PLACE	23-02-2026 at 15.30 hrs Registrar's Office, Administrative Block, Central College Campus, Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru
LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER	09-03-2026 Up to 16.00hrs.
OPENING OF THE TECHNICAL BID	10-03-2026 at 16.30hrs.

Note : Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/SHIRDI SAI/5899/2025-26 REGISTRAR

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kaidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265363 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/PMC/EPTND-EP-16/2080/2025-26 Date: 17.02.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender under Quality Based Consultancy System (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following works:

Name of the works: 1) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Establishment of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovation City (KWIN City) at Phase-1, Doddaballapura & Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. 2) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Establishment of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovation City (KWIN City) at Sector-1 of Phase-2, Doddaballapura & Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. 3) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Establishment of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovation City (KWIN City) at Sector-2 of Phase-2, Doddaballapura & Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. 4) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Establishment of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovation City (KWIN City) at Sector-1 of Phase-3, Doddaballapura & Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. 5) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Establishment of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovation City (KWIN City) at Sector-2 of Phase-3, Doddaballapura & Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. 6) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Survey, Investigation, Design, Supply, Installation, Erection, Laying, Construction and Commissioning of MS Pipe Gravity Main from MBR to IPS-3 and Construction of Intermediate Pumping Station-3 (IPS-3), Pumping Machineries and allied works inside the pump houses, 5 years of O&M for Providing & Supplying fresh water to the industrial areas in districts around Bengaluru on EPC Basis. (Package-3) (2nd Call). 7) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Survey, Investigation, Design, Supply, Installation, Erection, Laying, Construction and Commissioning Jackwell cum pump house, M S Pipe Rising Main from Yelahalke Gravity canal to MS Gravity pipe near KWIN City including Pumping Machineries and allied works inside the pump houses, SCADA, Land Acquisition & 5 years of O&M for Providing & Supplying fresh water to the industrial areas in districts around Bengaluru on EPC Basis. (Package-6) (2nd Call).

- Last Date for submission of Bids: **05.03.2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants may download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/5669/CCL/2025-26 Chief Engineer-1, KIADB, Bengaluru

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 1		
1.	Re-Carpeting of Roads Under Road Sub Division No 13, M.C Chandigarh (V 5 roads Sector 34 A&B, 43 A&B, Sector 44, Sector 51, V 6 roads Sector 35 A, Sector 43 B, Sector 44 C, Sector 51 B, Parkings Sector 35, 43, 44 & 51), Chandigarh. Capital Head : Improvement of Roads/Parking Places & Infrastructure Facilities. Est. Cost : Rs. 800.62 Lacs EMD : Rs. 16,01,856/- Time Limit : 09 Months	18.02.2026 To 05.03.2026 upto 12.00 noon	05.03.2026 at 12.00 noon
2.	Special Repair and Renovation of Fire Station Building at Industrial Area, Phase-I, Rainderber, Chandigarh. Capital Head : NRB. Est. Cost : Rs. 53.25 Lacs EMD : Rs. 1,06,582/- Time Limit : 03 Months	18.02.2026 To 25.02.2026 upto 12.00 noon	25.02.2026 at 12.00 noon
3.	Providing and fixing 60mm thick interlocking paver blocks on road berm backside SCO and chequered tiles on berm infront of SCO and widening of parking along Himalaya Marg parking Sector 43 B, Chandigarh. (Re-Invite). Est. Cost : Rs. 80.23 Lacs EMD : Rs. 1,60,468/- Time Limit : 12 Months	18.02.2026 To 25.02.2026 upto 12.00 noon	25.02.2026 at 12.00 noon
	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Hort. Division No. 2		
4.	Operation and Watch & Ward of fountains in various Green Belts / parks at various locations under the jurisdiction of SDE MCPH Sub Division No.19, Chandigarh under Revenue Head. Amount : Rs. 98,41,104/- Time Limit : 12 Months Earnest Money : Rs. 1,96,822/- Tender Fee : Rs. 3000/-	17.02.2026 at 5.30 PM To 26.02.2026 at 3.00 P.M.	26.02.2026 at 3.00 P.M.
5.	Construction of Toe Wall under existing M.S.Flat Railing in various Neighbourhood Parks of Modern Housing Complex Manimajra, Sector -13, Chandigarh Under Capital Head-landscaping. Amount : Rs. 33,04,463/- Time Limit : 04 Months Earnest Money : Rs. 66,089/- Tender Fee : Rs. 3000/-	17.02.2026 at 5.30 PM To 24.02.2026 at 3.00 P.M.	24.02.2026 at 3.00 P.M.
	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 3		
6.	Recarpeting of roads in EWS Colony Dhanas, Chandigarh. Head : Imp. of Road/Parking Places and Infrastructure Facilities. Est. Cost : Rs. 292.40 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs.5,84,800/- Time Limit : 09 Months	17.02.2026 To 03.03.2026 upto 12.00 noon	03.03.2026 at 15.00 P.M.

Note : 1) Tender Notice along with detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Roads Division No. 1, Hort. Division No.2 and Roads Division No. 3, M.C. Chandigarh

www.timesascent.com

TIMES ascent

Catapult your career

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 | Bengaluru

To book your Ad logon to:
ads.timesofindia.com
Scan QR Code

ADVERTORIAL AND PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

For Advertising Queries, Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free)

How Professionals Can Escape The Trap Of Inflated Designations

Ritaparna Chakraborty

Vice-presidents in their late twenties, directors with no teams, and "heads" without budget authority — titles in corporate India are expanding rapidly far faster than responsibility, compensation, or decision rights.

Why title inflation is rising

According to LinkedIn's India Workforce Insights, professionals in India change roles or receive title upgrades every 30-34 months, among the fastest progression cycles globally. Meanwhile, Mercer's India Compensation Trends Report 2026 shows median salary increments stabilising between 8% and 10%, even in high-demand sectors like technology and consulting.

This gap creates pressure. When attrition is high and budgets are tight, organisations reach for the cheapest retention lever: designation upgrades. A "manager" becomes a "director" without additional authority. A "product owner" becomes "VP product" without portfolio ownership. It works temporarily. It fails structurally.

What this looks like

Consider a product professional hired as a senior role, title while managing only a single feature module, with no direct reports and no commercial ownership. When she applies to global firms, she is evaluated against VP benchmarks — portfolio strategy, cross-functional leadership, and revenue accountability. The mismatch becomes immediately apparent. Or take a high-performing engineer promoted to "senior director" to prevent attrition, yet continuing as an individual contributor. Three years later, recruiters question the disconnect. In India's startup ecosystem—which, according to Tracxn, crossed 100 unicorns in under a decade—early employees are often rewarded with leadership titles when capital is tight. As companies mature, many of these roles get restructured or eliminated. Professionals then struggle to transition into established organisations because their experience reflects speed and execution, not scaled leadership.

The career risk for talent

Title inflation creates a dangerous illusion of progress. Global hiring frameworks evaluate candidates on responsibility, not nomenclature. Downleveling during lateral moves has become common. Candidates walk in expecting senior leadership roles and encounter reality checks on scope and capability. There is also a quieter cost: learning stagnation. Once someone is branded "senior," organisations often stop stretching them. Exposure to complex decision-making reduces.

What high-performing organisations are doing differently

Leading global companies are simplifying title structures and strengthen role architecture. Seniority is defined by:

a) Decision authority
b) Team leadership scale
c) Budget and revenue ownership
d) Strategic complexity

Performance is rewarded through compensation, equity participation, and high-impact project ownership, not cosmetic promotions.

What ambitious professionals should ask

For high-potential talent, the message is simple: chase scope, not labels.

Before accepting a senior-sounding designation, ask:

1. What decisions will I truly own?
2. What outcomes will I be accountable for?
3. Will this role increase my credibility in global markets?

If the answers are unclear, the promotion is symbolic — not strategic.

(The author is partner, regional lead, India for True Search)

ISME Bangalore INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE
BBA / B Com /BCA/ MCA / PGDM / Ph.D.
(Ranked 30th all India by TOI)
A Leading Business School requires the following :
MANAGER / SR. MANAGER PLACEMENTS
Minimum of 5+ years of experience in Business development with excellent Communication & Networking skills. Having worked with HR Recruitment consultancy or Placements with education institute preferred.
MANAGER / SR. MANAGER ADMISSIONS
Minimum of 5+ yrs of experience in Business development and excellent Communication skills. Experience with educational institute or admission consultancy preferred.
Candidates from Bangalore staying in and around 15 km. radius or willing to shift near the campus only need to apply. Faculty with BC/ST background and residing in Karnataka are encouraged to apply.
Interested candidates may apply to hr@isme.in
ISME, Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru | 080-28019600 | www.isme.in

RV Educational Institutions®
Rooted in 60+ years of educational excellence, RV Educational Institutions (RVEI) spans over a comprehensive learning of 28+ institutions from KG to PG and across diverse disciplines.
RVEI INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR
RV PUBLIC SCHOOL (ICSE Board)
Lalbagh West gate, Bengaluru - 560004
• High School, Primary and Nursery Teachers
English, Mathematics & Biology
QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:
- Graduation + B.Ed. (3-4 years)
- For nursery teachers graduation & NTT certificate is accepted
• Physical Education Teacher
QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:
- Graduation + B.P.Ed./M.P.Ed. (3-4 years)
• Special Education Teacher (Part-time)
QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:
- Graduation + B.Ed. (Special Education)/Diploma in Special Education (3-4 years)
RV SCHOOL (STATE BOARD)
Tata Silk Farm, Bengaluru - 560028
• High School, Primary and Nursery Teachers
Science (CBZ), Kannada, English & Social Studies
QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:
- Graduation + B.Ed. (3-4 years)
- For nursery teachers graduation & NTT certificate is accepted
• Physical Education Teacher
QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:
- Graduation + B.P.Ed./M.P.Ed. (3-4 years)
• Music Teacher (Part-time, 2 days per week)
QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:
- Graduation + Diploma in Music (3-4 years)
• Manager - Finance & Administration
QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:
Graduate with 10 years of relevant experience
Eligible and interested candidates who meet the above requirements may apply to:
The Hon. Secretary,
Rashtreeya Sikshana Samithi Trust, RV Teachers College Building, 15, Ashoka Pillar Road, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011
Ph: 080-46746464 | Mail id: hr@rvei.edu.in
Email your CV with copies of supporting documents, or post them in a sealed envelope with two passport-size photographs superscribed with the post applied for within 15 days.
Go, change the world®

DAYANANDA SAGAR UNIVERSITY
CDSIMER
www.dsu.edu.in
WE'RE HIRING
Skilled & Dedicated Professionals for CDSIMER
Dayananda Sagar University (DSU), established under Karnataka Act No. 20 of 2013, is a part of Dayananda Sagar Institutions (DSI) which has a student strength of about 32,000. DSU has established its new innovation campus over sprawling 130 acres off Kanakapura Road near Harohalli. It has Nine schools of study in Medicine, Engineering, Health Sciences, Commerce & Management, Basic & Applied Sciences, Computer Applications, Law, Design & Digital Transmedia, Arts and Humanities. The University offers state-of-the-art infrastructure, excellent academic ambience for professional growth and encouragement to entrepreneurship, innovation as well as incubation.
As a fitting tribute to Dr. Chandramma Dayananda Sagar, a legend and the first Indian lady doctor to have obtained triple F.R.C.S, DSU has established "Dr.CHANDRAMMA DAYANANDA SAGAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH" a medical college recognized u/s 10a of MMC Act 1956 for 200 MBBS and PG seats with a 1350 bed Hospital at Dayananda Sagar University Campus, located 30 kms away from Bangalore on NH-209, Kanakapura Road, Harohalli, Bengaluru South District. The Institute mission is to educate the future leaders in the Medical Profession, with a strong foundation and motivation to serve humanity.
• PROFESSORS • ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS • ASST.PROFESSORS • SENIOR RESIDENTS
• JUNIOR RESIDENTS in the following Departments
• Radio-Diagnosis • Dermatology • General Medicine • Emergency Medicine
• Respiratory Medicine • Paediatrics • OBG • Anaesthesiology
• Psychiatry • Ophthalmology • General Surgery • Orthopaedics
• ENT • Anatomy • Physiology • Biochemistry
• Pharmacology • Pathology • Microbiology • Community Medicine • Forensic Medicine
Emergency & Critical care Physicians
Superspeciality Departments • Cardiology • Nephrology • Neurology • Medical Gastroenterology • Critical Care Medicine • Endocrinology • Medical Oncology • Neuro Surgery • CTVS • Plastic Surgery • Urology
Qualification and Experience : As per NMC norms • Salary as per UGC Pay scales/ Higher scales can be considered for the right candidate • Faculty accommodation available within the campus
Nursing Staff: BSc or GNM with relevant experience at various levels
candidates meeting the above requirements may apply with their resume within 7 days from the date of this advertisement to hr.cdsimer@dsu.edu.in (or) vc-ceo@dayanandasagar.edu
DSU Main Campus : Devarakaggalahalli, Harohalli, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru South Dist-562112
Dr. D. PREMACHANDRA SAGAR, PRO-CHANCELLOR

R N Shetty Trust®
RNS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Autonomous Institution affiliated to VTU, Accredited by NAAC with "A+" Grade
RR Nagar, Bangalore - 98. www.rnsit.ac.in
APPLICATIONS INVITED
FACULTY
PROFESSOR , ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & ASST PROFESSOR
In Dept. of CSE / CS(AI&ML) / CSE (DS) / CSE (CY) / CSBS
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Dept of ECE [VLSI & DT], ECE, MBA and Mathematics
Qualification As per AICTE Norms
TECHNICAL STAFF
System Analyst — Qualification : M.Tech in CSE with 5 Years of experience as Programmer.
Foreman / Supervisor — B.E., Diploma (ESE / EPS), B.Sc. (ES) / MSc, with 1 to 2 years of experience
Instructor / Asst Instructor — Diploma in relevant Field one with at least 10 Years of experience [ECE, EEE & Civil]
SALARY & ALLOWANCES
FACULTY : Revised AICTE pay scale as per institution norms. Higher remuneration for deserving candidates.
TECHNICAL STAFF : Salary as per the institution norms.
Submit your application within 10 days from the date of advertisement, to the Principal, RNSIT through
email: careers@rnsit.ac.in / hr@rnsit.ac.in

APPOINTMENT
IKON GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS
is looking for a person to be appointed as administrator to look into day-to-day administration of its education institutions in and around Bengaluru.
Any person with good academic vision or any retired IAS, KAS, Defense Personal can apply
Email ID: ikongroupofinstitutions@gmail.com

D.A. Pandu Memorial RV Dental College®
Bengaluru - 560076, Karnataka, India
INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR
• Professor for Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics
• Reader for Prosthodontics and Crown & Bridge
• Lecturer for Prosthodontics and Crown & Bridge, Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics
• Reader for Human Anatomy, Biochemistry, Pathology, Microbiology and Pharmacology
• Lecturer for Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, Biochemistry, Pathology, Microbiology and Pharmacology
• Dental Technician/ Dental Hygienist
QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:
As per the Dental Council of India norms.
ABOUT US
Founded in 1992, D.A. Pandu Memorial RV Dental College (DAPM RVDC), is affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences(RGUHS) and recognised by the Dental Council of India.
Eligible and interested candidates who meet the above requirements may apply to:
The Hon. Secretary
Rashtreeya Sikshana Samithi Trust, RV Teachers College Building, 15, Ashoka Pillar Road, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560011
Ph: 080-46746464 | Mail id: hr@rvei.edu.in
Email your CV with copies of supporting documents or post them in a sealed envelope with two passport-size photographs superscribed with the post applied for within 15 days.
Go, change the world®

HLL Lifecare Limited
A Government of India Enterprise
JOIN US IN
INNOVATING
FOR HEALTHY
GENERATIONS
HLL IS HIRING MANAGEMENT TRAINEES FROM DIFFERENT STREAMS
HLL Lifecare Limited, a 60 year old Schedule B, Mini Ratna Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, and one of India's fastest-growing healthcare organisations, operates seven state-of-the-art manufacturing units, two subsidiaries, one joint venture company and two associate organisations. With a global presence in over 87 countries, HLL offers a diverse portfolio of healthcare products including contraceptives, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and women's healthcare solutions, along with a wide range of healthcare services covering diagnostics, healthcare infrastructure development, procurement and consultancy services, holistic wellbeing, sustainable healthcare initiatives, and the implementation of large-scale public health programmes.
Human Resources
Marketing
Social Work
Data Analytics
Pharma
Hospital Management
Engineering
Scan the QR code to apply
Apply online at www.lifecarehll.com/careers
LAST DATE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION 10 MARCH 2026
Corporate Head Office:
HLL Bhawan, Poojappura,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695012, Kerala

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL
AMARAVATI, GUNTUR
INVITES ONLINE APPLICATIONS FROM
PGT — Accountancy, Economics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Business Studies, Legal Studies.
TGT — English, Hindi, Telugu, Social Science, Maths, Science, AI.
PRT — Maths, English, Social Science, Hindi, EVS, Telugu, Art.
Robotics, Special Educator, Psychology Counsellor, French Trainer, Sports Coaches.
Accommodation for outstation (Other than AP) candidates.
APPLY ONLINE: Interested candidates can email their CV with all relevant documents and latest PP size photo. Payment of Rs. 1000/- needs to be transferred to CHAKKAPALLI BANKARAMMA EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.
HDFC Bank A/c No:50200034286447 IFSC Code: HDFC0000189.
Resume with all credentials and screenshot of payment needs to be sent to careers@dpsamaravati.com. Last date: 28th Feb 2026.
Shortlisted candidates will be called for a written test and an interview.
Run by: CHAKKAPALLI BANKARAMMA EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY. Principal

INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF
PRINCIPAL
IIRM HYDERABAD
Leading B-School
IIRM, promoted jointly by IRDAI and Govt. of Telangana is looking for a Principal for its Academic activities. The Institute recognized by AICTE, has its own Residential Campus located in the Financial District, Hyderabad, offering several programmes leading to 2-year PGDM, Distance Learning courses and Training programmes.
For details visit website : www.theiirm.ac.in

IIM MUMBAI
Indian Institute of Management Mumbai
(Ministry of Education, Government of India)
Advt. No. Admn/Rectt/2026/08 dated 12 February 2026
Advt. No. Admn/Rectt/2026/09 dated 18 February 2026
Advertisement for Non-Teaching Positions
IIM Mumbai invites online applications for various Non-Teaching positions from eligible candidates.
Admn/Rectt/2026/08 ▶ Medical Officer
Admn/Rectt/2026/09 ▶ Various Non-Teaching Positions
For detailed advertisements, please visit
https://iimmumbai.ac.in/careers
Chief Administrative Officer

Live stream to wall climbs: Class 10 Bihar board exams open in chaos

Faryal.Rumi@timesofindia.com

Patna: Phones went live. Gates and walls were scaled. Rules were tested before first bell. Class 10 finals of Bihar School Examination Board opened Tuesday under a cloud after a Facebook Live breakout allegedly streamed from inside an exam centre in Siwan minutes before papers were to be handed out.

Broadcast from the handheld of an official linked to Gorakh Prasad Private ITI, the footage showed students seated inside hall at the exam centre in Maharajganj subdivision. The clip spread quickly on social media, triggering questions over enforcement of a strict ban on mobile phones inside exam halls. The video was later deleted. **TOI** couldn't independently verify its authenticity.

Daraunda police station SHO Vikas Kumar said ITI principal Pankaj Kumar was arrested after a complaint. "His mobile has also been seized. The viral video was shot from his mobile by the ITI director Prince Singh, who's absconding after the matter came to light. Police are conducting searches for his arrest," he said.

Maharajganj SDO Anita Sinha reached the centre and ordered an inquiry. "The video was taken before the exam began. An investigation revealed that the video was not made by any candidate," she said. Disorder stretched across Bihar. In Patna, a late student at Devipad Chaudhary Shaheed Smarak Miller High School tried to scale a 10-foot boundary wall. Security stopped him. At Gardanibagh Girls School, a a girl climbed the gate bars to get inside.

In Buxar district, a student scaled a boundary wall and entered. In Begusarai, three students climbed walls to gain access.

Chopper final assembly line opens in Kolar

India-France Ties Knows No Boundary: PM

Rangnath K | TNN

Bengaluru/Vemagal: Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) Tuesday inaugurated India's first private-sector helicopter final assembly line (FAL) for the Airbus H125 at Vemagal in Kolar, marking a new phase in domestic rotary-wing manufacturing.

The facility was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron virtually. Defence minister Rajnath Singh, French armed forces minister Catherine Vautrin and civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu and Karnataka industries minister MB Patil were present at the event in Kolar.

"France is among India's oldest strategic partners. In today's world of uncertainties, this is a partnership for global stability and progress," PM Modi said after inaugurating the FAL. "We are proud that India and France together are building the world's only helicopter that can touch the heights of Mt Everest in India. This helicopter will be exported to the entire world."

Airbus currently sources components and services worth over $1.5 billion annually from India, including complex aerostructures and systems. The FAL will undertake manufacturing, integration, testing and maintenance of the civil H125 helicopter in India, with the capability to produce its military variant, the H225M. The first India-built H125 is expected to be delivered in early 2027 and will also be available for export within South Asia.

"The H125 is the world's best-selling single-engine helicopter and the only helicopter to have landed on the summit of Mount Everest. It has logged over 40 million flight hours globally and is widely used in India and the region," TASL said. The MoU was signed for manufacturing of Hammer missiles under a JV between defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited and French major Safran. Earlier, Rajnath and Vautrin attended the inaugural ceremony of the H125 Light Utility Helicopter final assembly line, jointly built by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) and Airbus at Karnataka's Vemagal, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron virtually inaugurating the facility from Mumbai.

After the facility's inauguration, Modi said, "We take pride in the fact that, together, India and France will manufacture in India the world's only helicopter capable of flying to the heights of Mount Everest and export it to the entire world." The delivery of the first 'Made in India' H125 is expected in early 2027, and the helicopter will help meet the requirements of the Indian armed forces for a light multi-role helicopter and boost army operations on the icy heights of the Himalayas. Rajnath said the total investment for the H125 project is expected to exceed Rs 1,000 crore and create direct and indirect employment.

In the presence of Narendra Modi in Mumbai, Macron said, "From Rafale jets to submarines, we are expanding defence cooperation. India and France are also working together to build helicopter assembly line and fifth-gen fighter jet engines."

The President Macron's remark came days after Rajnath Singh-led Defence Acquisition Council gave the go-ahead for purchase of 114 Rafale jets from France. The cost negotiations between the two sides for the upcoming Rafale deal will get a big push after Tuesday's meeting between Modi and Macron, and the agreement will be inked after the Cabinet's clearance in the near future.

With President Macron also talking about defence collaboration on submarines, India may buy additional Scorpene-class conventional submarines from France. India had already acquired six Scorpene-class submarines (Kalvari class) from France under the Project 75 programme.

The French defence minister appreciated the conversion of Exercise Shakti with the Army from a biennial to an annual event.

During the meeting, Defence minister Rajnath Singh also raised the issue of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. He said Pakistan has a long history of nurturing, nourishing and promoting cross-border terrorism to create disturbance and violence in India. This, he said, has created a serious threat to peace in the region.

Min: 500 copters from Vemagal over 20 yrs

An H-125 helicopter is displayed during the inauguration of the final assembly line in Vemagal

Bengaluru/Vemagal: Karnataka will see the production of 500 H125 light helicopters over the next two decades at India's first private-sector helicopter final assembly line (FAL), industries minister MB Patil said Tuesday. He spoke after attending the inauguration of the facility set up by Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems Limited at Vemagal. TNN

Macron extends invite to Modi to attend G7 summit

President Emmanuel Macron extended an invitation to PM Modi to participate in the G7 Summit to be hosted by France in 2026. According to a joint statement, he invited India to participate actively in the discussions and preparatory work ahead of the Summit, mainly on the key issues of tackling global macroeconomic imbalances and defining a new paradigm for international partnerships and solidarity. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. The two leaders also reiterated their concern over the war in Ukraine. TNN

President Mac-Run charms 'city of dreams'

Bella.Jaisinghani@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: French President Emmanuel Macron sprung a surprise when he took a short run along Marine Drive, hours after landing in the city Tuesday morning. Wearing a navy blue T-shirt, black shorts and running shoes, he blended into the crowd without an army of security guards or a fleet of convoy vehicles. Neither the road nor the footpath was cordoned off. However, a few personal guards kept him by running a few paces behind. Fellow joggers stopped in their tracks and clicked photos on their phones.

PM Modi acknowledged the moment with a post on X: "It's a delight to meet my friend, President Macron in Mumbai! He told me he really likes the city and also enjoyed his run earlier in the day!"

"The city of dreams".

BMC had undertaken road levelling works in Colaba along the motorcade route. President Macron subsequently paid homage to victims of the 26/11 terror attacks, in which two French citizens were also killed, at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Colaba where he was staying. The President and First Lady Brigitte Macron laid a wreath at the 'Tree of Life memorial. He also signed a condolence book. Macron posted: "At the Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai, we paid tribute to the victims of the 2008 attacks."

Macron and wife Brigitte after paying tribute to the victims of the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks, at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai on Tuesday

PM Modi: India, France believe in multipolar world

▸ Continued from page 1

The PM said India has just concluded the "largest and most ambitious" free trade agreement in India's history with the European Union and that this would also grant unprecedented momentum to India-France ties. To promote mutual investment, Modi also announced the signing of an agreement to avoid double taxation "for our people and companies".

The PM said India and France both believe in democratic values, the rule of law and a multipolar world. Modi also spoke about the need for reform of global institutions, saying only through such reforms can solutions to global challenges emerge.

The two countries also launched an annual foreign ministers dialogue for regularly reviewing implementation of the elevated partnership and Horizon 2047 Roadmap that was announced in 2023.

HC acquits 3 men 43 years after dacoity conviction

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: Allahabad HC recently acquitted three men in their '70s who were convicted 43 years ago in a 2982 dacoity case, ruling that the prosecution's evidence was weak and riddled with inconsistencies.

Justice Avnish Saxena allowed the criminal appeal on Feb 16, setting aside convictions recorded in 1983 by a special sessions court in UP's Badaun district. "Surviving appellants cannot be held guilty for offence of dacoity or any other minor offence," the judgment said, adding that evidence had been incorrectly appreciated at trial, entitling the appellants to benefit of doubt.

Seven men had challenged the trial court's 1983 verdict. The case stemmed from a July 27, 1982, crime reported at Ujhani police station in Badaun, invoking sections 395 (dacoity) and 397 (dacoity with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt) of IPC.

The trial court had convicted Ali Hasan, Narain and Nandey under section 395 and sentenced them to five years' rigorous imprisonment. Omkar, Harpal, Latoori and Mehdi were convicted under sections 395 read with 397 and sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

Narain, Nandey, Omkar and Mehdi died during the long pendency of the appeal. By an order dated Feb 21, 2019, the appeal stood abated for these four.

Allowing the appeal of the three surviving men, HC found material contradictions in witness testimony and gaps in prosecution proof. Ali Hasan was acquitted of the section 395 charge. Harpal and Latoori were acquitted of charges under sections 395 read with 397.

Rajnath to French def min: Raise India-made component in Rafale deal

Surendra Singh & Chethan Kumar | TNN

New Delhi/Bengaluru: Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday asked his French counterpart, minister of the armed forces and veterans affairs of France Catherine Vautrin, "to raise India-made component" in the upcoming deal for 114 Rafale fighter jets to "up to 50%", defence sources told **TOI**. During their 6th India-France Annual Defence Dialogue in Bengaluru, Rajnath Singh also told Vautrin to "try to ensure that the engines of the fighter jet planes are made and overhauled in India. This will help our 'Make-in-India' effort," the sources quoted the minister as telling Vautrin.

The ministers discussed a range of bilateral security and defence issues, including priority areas for co-development and co-production of defence equipment. India and France also reviewed their defence cooperation agreement for another 10 years, announced reciprocal deployment of army officers and inked an MoU to manufacture Hammer missiles in India.

Ministers renew def pact for another 10 yrs, ink agreement to make Hammer missiles in India

TIMES ascent
Catapult your career

SANKALCHAND PATEL UNIVERSITY
LOOKING FOR A DYNAMIC AND VISIONARY ACADEMIC LEADER
RECRUITMENT OF PROVOST
Sankalchand Patel University is a leading multidisciplinary NAAC "A" grade state Private University, established vide Gujarat Private Universities (Amendment) Act 2016; and recognized by the UGC under Section 2(f). The University is committed to academic excellence, innovation, and societal development, and offers courses in 14 disciplines viz. Engineering, Management, Humanities & Sciences, Design, Medical, Dental, Pharmacy, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Allied Sciences and Centres of Excellence with more than 10000 students and 750 Faculty members. Notable, the University has an in-campus 810 bedded General Hospital equipped with multi-specialty facilities.
The University invites applications/nominations from the distinguished academicians for the position of Provost with a minimum of 10 years' of experience as Professor in a University or 10 years' of experience in a reputed research and/or academic administrative organisation with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership. The interested professionals may share their CVs alongwith a vision statement and covering letter addressed to – The Search Committee, Sankalchand Patel University at - searchcom@spu.ac.in.
The last date to apply is 28-03-2026. For more details, please visit the University website i.e. www.spu.ac.in
Contact us –in-confidence, in case of any query, please write to chairman, Prof. Sandhya Bhatnagar, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat
Registrar

RBU
RAMDEOBABA UNIVERSITY, NAGPUR
Ramdeo Tekadi, Katol Road, Nagpur - - 440013 (Maharashtra)
Contact : +91-9156788590 Website : www.rbunagpur.in
APPOINTMENT FOR THE POST OF PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE, PROFESSOR, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Applications are invited from qualified and experienced candidates for regular, contractual and adjunct faculty positions, including Professor of Practice, Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in the School of Computer Science and Engineering.
The eligibility criteria will be as per UGC/AICTE Norms
AICTE/UGC scale applicable for deserving candidates
Interested candidates are required to comply with the following:
1. Complete the Google Form by filling in the requisite details and uploading the prescribed resume format at https://rbunagpur.in/jobs/
2. Submit a duly filled application in the prescribed resume format (available at https://rbunagpur.in/jobs/), also the applicant's with resume and documents be emailed to jobs@rbunagpur.in
3. Alternatively, applicants may submit a hard copy of the duly completed application along with relevant documents to the Registrar, Ramdeobaba University, Nagpur
Applications in hard copy must be received within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement, thereafter no candidates will be called for an interview to be held at RBU, Nagpur.
Registrar
10/04/13-01

NATIONAL HIGH-SPEED RAIL CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Joint Sector Company of Government of India and participating State Governments)
VACANCY NOTICE
NHSRCL is a joint sector company of Ministry of Railways and participating state governments which has been entrusted with the task of building first high-speed corridor between Mumbai-Ahmedabad.
NHSRCL invites applications for the post of Assistant Manager (Design-Structure) from serving employees of Central Public Sector Undertakings/SPVs/Metro Railways/ Ministry of Railways/Government Departments/Private Sector (as applicable) to join the company on Regular Basis. The last date for submitting the applications online is 28.02.2026. (Candidates who have applied for the post of Assistant Manager (Design-Structure) in response to NHSRCL vacancy notice no. 03/2025 need not apply again). The hard copy of online application along with supporting documents of all applicants should reach NHSRCL Corporate Office, New Delhi on or before 05.03.2026
Details of vacancy may be seen at the official website www.nhsrcl.in
Note: Addendum/further communication in this regard, if any, will be notified on the NHSRCL website ONLY.

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान गोवा
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GOA
Advt. No NITGOA/RECT/2025/OW13 dated 13.02.2026
CORRIGENDUM FOR ADVERTISEMENT OF REGISTRAR
In continuation of advertisement for recruitment to the post of Registrar vide Advt. No. NITGOA/RECT/2025/OW13 dated 14-11-2025, uploaded on the Institute website https://www.nitgoa.ac.in, the amendment with respect to experience criteria is issued with respect to the post of the Registrar. The details are available on Institute website. All other terms and conditions of the said advertisement shall remain unchanged. The hard copy of the duly filled application form along with self-attested supporting documents should be sent by post to "The Registrar, National Institute of Technology Goa, Cuncolim, South Goa, Goa – 403703", on or before 16th March 2026. Please visit www.nitgoa.ac.in for complete details and online application.
-Sd-
Director

BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED
(CIN: L32309KA1967GOI001191)
Bharat Electronics Limited, a Navaratna Company and India's premier professional electronics Company under the Ministry of Defence, requires following Professionals for its Bengaluru Complex.

Sl. No.	Post/Grade	Qualification	No. of posts
Posts on Permanent Basis:			
1	Medical Officer/E4	MBBS+ APG (Specialist Fellowship in Interventional Radiology) with minimum 7 years of post qualification experience	3
Posts on Fixed Tenure Basis (5 years tenure):			
1	Senior Medical Officer (Paediatrician)/E1	MBBS + MD (Paediatrics) Or MBBS + DCH with minimum 7 years of post qualification experience	1
2	Senior Medical Officer (Plastic Surgeon)/E1	MBBS + MS (Surgery)	1
Post on Temporary Basis:			
1	Senior Officer (Library)	Graduate Post Graduate in Library & Information Science with minimum six months of post qualification experience	1

For detailed advertisement and for application details please visit the 'Careers' section of our website www.bel-india.in
'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

XIM UNIVERSITY
XIM University, Bhubaneswar, invites applications from highly motivated, qualified, and committed professionals for Faculty and Staff positions across its constituent schools and administrative units.
To apply, please visit our website www.xim.edu.in for the details & fill in the ONLINE APPLICATION FORM available in the Careers@XIM section for Faculty & Staff respectively. Also, Interested applicants may email their updated resume with credentials and post applied for to :
facultycareers@xim.edu.in,
staffcareers@xim.edu.in
This is a rolling recruitment; early applications are encouraged.
Registrar

HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED
Corporate Office
15 / 1, Cubbon Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
OFFICIAL CLARIFICATION ON FALSE RECRUITMENT MESSAGES
It has come to our attention that some unscrupulous persons are circulating a message on WhatsApp and other social media platforms inviting applications for purported jobs at a "Central Government HAL Factory being built near Mannigatti, Dharwad Taluk."
The said message and any similar communication circulated through unofficial platforms at present or in the future are false, misleading and not issued by HAL. Circulation of such fabricated communication shall invite penal action under applicable law.
We are committed to maintaining the integrity and transparency of our recruitment process. Recruitment Notifications are published on the HAL Website, in Newspapers and on the National Career Service (NCS) Portal. HAL does not issue Recruitment Notifications through WhatsApp, social media, or any other platforms.
A Cautionary Notice regarding such fraudulent communications has been issued on the HAL website for public awareness. For all information on recruitment in HAL, please visit https://hal-india.co.in/career only.

Vacancies for MEDICAL CONSULTANTS and NATIONAL CONSULTANTS
(IGO WHO TB TSN)
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION-TUBERCULOSIS TECHNICAL SUPPORT NETWORK for National TB Elimination Program (NTEP)
WHO has been supporting the NTEP through its WHO-TB TSN. There are multiple vacancies for Medical Consultants at Field level across India and at National level in New Delhi
How to apply for the position
Medical Consultant Field Level:
https://gjw.dewinidas.in/recruitment/26ai/HR/2026JAN/careers/job/details/697203715/Medical-Consultant-NLE
https://gjw.dewinidas.in/recruitment/26ai/HR/2026JAN/careers/job/details/697212892/Medical-Consultant-FIELD
National Consultant – NSE:
https://gjw.dewinidas.in/recruitment/26ai/HR/2026JAN/careers/job/details/697188477
Eligible candidates must apply online using the above link by or before 15 March, 2026.

Collabera
Do you have *fire in the belly?*
Are you passionate enough to chase your dreams?
We are looking for the driven, the ambitious, and the impact-makers. If you refuse to settle for the status quo, you belong here.
Why Collabera?
+ Turn Passion into Purpose +
+ Limitless Growth + + Dynamic Culture +
Apply Now
Please share your resume on: breferrals@collabera.com
Be Unstoppable.
In pursuit of GREATNESS
www.collabera.co.in

National Daily Development Board
Pil No. 40, Anand 388001, Gujarat, India
Tel: 02692-260148/260149/260160
Website: www.nddb.coop
Requires following professionals Executive Directors
National Daily Development Board (NDDB) is a statutory body corporate and an institution of national importance. The Board promotes, plans and organises programmes for development of dairy and other agriculture and allied industries and biologicals. NDDB offers an environment that is professional and conducive for creativity and innovation.
For more details, please log on to our website www.nddb.coop

Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited
(A Joint Venture of NTPC, CIL, IOCL, FCIL & HFCL)
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN HURL
HURL invites applications in Executive Cadre – Marketing and Non Executive cadre in various disciplines of Instrumentation, O&U, Quality Assurance & Inspection, UPH, Instrumentation, etc.
Interested candidates may visit HURL website www.hurl.net.in (career section) regarding registration, application process, eligibility criteria, experience requirement, corrigendum, updates, etc.
Registration Start Date: 11.02.2026
Registration End Date: 03.03.2026
Core-4, 8th Floor, SCOPE Minar, Laxmi Nagar, District Centre, New Delhi-110092
Website: www.hurl.net.in

Dr. SPM International Institute of Information Technology - Naya Raipur (IIIT-NR)
Sector-24, Naya Raipur, Atal Nagar - 493661 (Chhattisgarh)
Recruitment Notice No. 01/2026 Dated 12/02/2026
Dr. S.P. Mukherjee IIIT-Naya Raipur invites applications from eligible candidates for recruitment to following positions on deputation basis:-

S.No.	Name of the Post	Pay Scale	Post
1.	Registrar	Level-14	1 (UR)
2.	Chief Finance & Accounts Officer	Level-14	1 (UR)

For all details including last date of application and other updates please visit the website of IIIT-Naya Raipur https://www.iiitnr.ac.in.
Registrar (I/c)

MADHYA PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MPSEDC)
(Under Department of Science & Technology, Government of M.P.)
47-A, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462011 (M.P.)
IT PROFESSIONALS WANTED AT MPSEDC
With reference to the above-titled advertisement published on 11.02.2026 for various positions at MPSEDC, it is hereby informed, in public interest that the said recruitment advertisement stands cancelled and may be treated as null and void. Any further communication, if required, shall be issued separately in due course.
N.P. Madhyam/1244/1/2026

thyssenkrupp Uhde India invites experienced IT professionals to join its Global IT Hub in India. Be part of a high-performing team driving enterprise-scale IT services for a global engineering organization

thyssenkrupp Uhde India Private Limited is a global engineering leader delivering complex EPC and EPCM projects across chemicals, fertilizers, and energy transition sectors. As an integral part of the thyssenkrupp Uhde global network, tkUIPL is driving innovation in green hydrogen, green ammonia, and digital transformation, supported by a strong engineering and IT ecosystem in India.

Service Owner

Eligibility Criteria: B.E. / B.Tech with 15-18 years of relevant work experience

Roles: • User Support Services • Computing Power

Service Leader (Multiple Roles)

Eligibility Criteria: B.E. / B.Tech with 10-12 years of relevant work experience

Roles: • User Device Services • SAP AMS & Operations • IT Tools • AI Services • Data Centre • LAN

Service Expert (Multiple Roles)

Eligibility Criteria: B.E. / B.Tech with 3+ years of relevant experience

Why join tkUIPL?
- Opportunity to lead enterprise-scale IT services
- Flexible Working Hours
- Hybrid Working
- Family Care Leave
- Employee-centric policies

Who should apply?
- Professionals from large enterprises
- Experience in IT Service Management / Data Centre Management
- Exposure to global, multi-country IT operations
- Leaders with strong ownership and service governance mindset

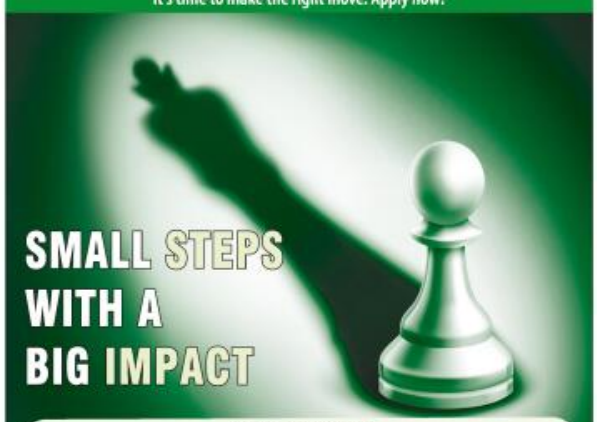
Selection process
- Virtual round, followed by a personal round of interview

How to apply?
Email your updated resume to: tkUIPL.hiring@thyssenkrupp.com
Please mention the position you are applying for in the subject line
For complete job descriptions, please scan the QR code

engineering.tomorrow. together. thyssenkrupp

बामर लॉरी एण्ड कं. लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का एक उद्यम)
Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.
(A Government of India Enterprise)
SINCE 1867
(A Miniratna - I PSE)

It's time to make the right move. Apply now!



ON REGULAR ROLLS

Industrial Packaging
Deputy Manager [Manufacturing]
Silvassa - 1 post

Logistics Infrastructure
Unit Head [W&D]
Kolkata - 1 post

Logistics Services
Assistant Manager [Rail Operations]
Jagdalpur - 1 post

ON FIXED TERM CONTRACT

Logistics Services
Junior Officer [Operations & Project Logistics]
Kolkata - 1 post
Junior Officer [Operations]
Visakhapatnam - 1 post
Junior Officer [Sea CHA]
Mumbai - 1 post

Secretary's Department
Junior Officer / Officer [Secretarial]
Kolkata - 1 post

Associate Services
Junior Officer [IT Support]
Chennai - 1 post

Travel & Vacations
Assistant Manager [Travel]
Mumbai - 1 post, Delhi - 2 posts
Assistant Manager [Sales]
Ahmedabad, Vijayawada, Bengaluru - 1 post each
Officer [Sales] - MICE
Delhi - 1 post
Officer [Travel]
Mumbai - 2 posts, Indore & Delhi - 1 post each

Officer [Visa]
Chennai - 1 post
Officer [Sales]
Delhi - 2 posts
Jr. Officer / Officer [Visa]
Mumbai - 1 post
Jr. Officer [Sales]
Bengaluru, Mumbai, Vijayawada - 1 post each
Jr. Officer [Operations]
Chennai - 1 post
Junior Officer [Travel]
Ahmedabad - 1 post

For details and to apply, log on to Careers at https://www.balmerlawrie.com/careers/current-openings
The last date for submission of applications is 13.03.2026
Regd. Office: 21 N. S. Road, Kolkata 700 001 • CIN- L15492WB1924GOI004835

A Multi-Business Conglomerate celebrating 160th year of Trust, Reliability & Transparency.

Balmer Lawrie Balmer Lawrie Logistics BALMER LAWRIE Balmer Lawrie Balmer Lawrie

Presence in: Industrial Packaging | Greases & Lubricants | Chemicals | Logistics [Services, Infrastructure, Cold Chain] | Travel & Vacations

Scan to explore

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Maharatna CPSE)
ADVT. NO. HPCL/OPEN/HR/3/2025-26

Delivering Happiness

Fresh Minds. Experienced Experts. One Powerful Future. Join Us

IMPORTANT DATES
Commencement of online application: 25th February 2026
Last date of online application: 25th March 2026

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), invites applications from passionate & talented candidates looking for an exciting career in the energy sector.

Roles Available

FRESHERS
Graduate Engineers | Diploma Engineers | Quality Control | Fire & Safety | Finance | Human Resources | Information Systems | Hindi officer | Junior Executive Assistant

EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS
Safety Officer | Sales | HR Legal | Refinery | Cyber Security | Company Secretary | Projects | Petrochemicals | Hindi officer | HSSE | City Gas Distribution | Lube Operations

For more details of advertisement, eligibility criteria and related information candidates can visit our Career Page on https://hindustanpetroleum.com from 25th February 2026. Any advisory/any queries related to this advertisement will only be published on the Career Page of our website.

Regd. Office: 17, Jamshedji Tata Road, Mumbai - 400020
CIN NO: L23201MH1952GOI008868
www.hindustanpetroleum.com

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY
पवई, मुंबई - 400 076
Powai, Mumbai - 400 076

भा.प्रौ.सं मुंबई में संकाय पदों के लिए विज्ञापन
Advertisement for Faculty Posts at IIT Bombay

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, मुंबई, एक राष्ट्रीय महत्व का प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान एवं राष्ट्रीय महत्व के संस्थान में सहायक प्राध्यापक (ग्रेड I एवं II), एक सहायक प्राध्यापक एवं प्राध्यापक के स्तर पर संकाय पदों के लिए योग्य व्यक्ति से ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, an Institute of national importance adjudged as Institute of Eminence, invites online applications from qualified candidates for faculty positions at the level of Assistant Professor (Grade I & II), Associate Professor & Professor belonging to -

विज्ञापन प्रकार / Advertisement type	विज्ञापन संख्या / Advertisement No.
रोलिंग विज्ञापन / Rolling Advertisement	109-10/23-26 / L-10/25-26

आवश्यक शैक्षिक योग्यता, अनुभव, वांछनीय विशेष अर्हता के अतिरिक्त विवरण के लिए, भा.प्रौ.सं मुंबई की वेबसाइट https://www.iitb.ac.in/en/careers/apply देखें

For details regarding essential educational qualification, experience, general instructions etc., visit IIT Bombay website https://www.iitb.ac.in/en/careers/apply

दिनांक
Date : 18.02.2026

कुलसचिव REGISTRAR

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY
Powai, Mumbai - 400 076

Advertisement No. RECT/ADMIN0001/2026

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, an Institute of national importance adjudged as Institute of Eminence, invites online application for following position(s)/ vacancy (ies) of the post(s) -

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Details	No. of Position(s)/ Vacancy (ies) & Reservation
1.	Technical Officer (Scale-I) (Job Ref. No. 50866891)	Pay Level 10 (56100-177500)	1 Position (UR)
2.	Technical Officer (Scale-I) (Job Ref. No. 50865409)	Pay Level 10 (56100-177500)	1 Position (OBC-NCL)
3.	Jr. Trained Graduate Teacher- Mathematics (Job Ref. No. 50854945)	Pay Level 6 (35400-112400)	1 Position (UR)
4.	Jr. Trained Graduate Teacher- Science (Job Ref. No. 50834062)	Pay Level 6 (35400-112400)	1 Position (UR)
5.	Jr. Trained Graduate Teacher- Marathi (Job Ref. No. 50866836)	Pay Level 6 (35400-112400)	1 Position (UR)
6.	Jr. Trained Graduate Teacher - Social Studies (Job Ref. No. 50864200)	Pay Level 6 (35400-112400)	1 Position (UR)
7.	Technical Superintendent- Backlog Vacancy (Job Ref. No. 50889015)	Pay Level 6 (35400-112400)	1 Position (SC)
8.	Technical Superintendent (Job Ref. No. 50775176)	Pay Level 6 (35400-112400)	1 Position (UR)
9.	Technical Superintendent – Backlog Vacancy (Job Ref. No. 50857376)	Pay Level 6 (35400-112400)	1 Position (SC)
10.	Technical Superintendent (Job Ref. No. 50866051)	Pay Level 6 (35400-112400)	1 Position (SC)
11.	Technical Superintendent (Job Ref. No. 50860552)	Pay Level 6 (35400-112400)	1 Position (EWS)
12.	Technical Superintendent – Backlog Vacancy (Job Ref. No. 50864183)	Pay Level 6 (35400-112400)	1 Position (SC)
13.	Jr. Engineer – Backlog Vacancy (Job Ref. No. 50885111)	Pay Level 6 (35400-112400)	1 Position (OBC-NCL)
14.	Technical Superintendent – Backlog Vacancy (Job Ref. No. 50890042)	Pay Level 6 (35400-112400)	1 Position (OBC-NCL)
15.	Technical Superintendent – Backlog Vacancy (Job Ref. No. 50872802)	Pay Level 6 (35400-112400)	2 Positions (1 SC, 1 OBC-NCL)
16.	Jr. Lab Assistant (Job Ref. No. 50775776)	Pay Level 3 (21700-69100)	1 Position (EWS)
17.	Temp. Pre Primary Teacher (Job Ref. No. 50873680)	EA2 (21700 -69100)	2 Positions (1 OBC-NCL, 1UR)

For details regarding essential educational qualification, experience, general instructions etc., visit IIT Bombay website https://www.iitb.ac.in/career/apply

The date of closing of online application interface is 18.03.2026

Date : 17.02.2026 REGISTRAR

HPCL LNG LIMITED
Corporate Office: Priyadarshini Building, A Wing, Fifth Floor, Sion-Trombay Road, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400 022

HPCL LNG Limited (HPLNG), a 100% subsidiary of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), invites application for Chhara LNG Terminal, Gujarat, for following positions -

Sr. No.	Positions on Rolling Advertisement	Vacancies
1.	Senior Officer - Safety	1
2.	Senior Officer - Materials	1
3.	Senior Engineer - Operation	1
Sr. No.	Positions on Fixed Term Contract	Vacancies
1.	Group Manager - Shipping	1
	Application Start Date	20th February, 2026
	Application End Date	19th March, 2026

For application and detailed advertisement, please visit our website https://www.hplng.in under Careers section. Candidates meeting the requisite eligibility criteria may apply online only.

Incomplete/ Conditional/ Late/ Incorrect Applications will not be considered.

Registered Office: HPCL Regional Office, Petroleum House, Behind Memnagar Fire Station Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380 009 CIN NO: U40101GJ2013GOI077328

NICMAR UNIVERSITY
PUNE

NICMAR UNIVERSITY, PUNE

29/1, N.I.A Post Office, Balewadi, Pune – 411045, Maharashtra
(UGC-Recognized State Private University)

HIGHLIGHTS
- Established by Industry Leaders
- Pioneers in Construction, Real Estate, Infrastructure & Project Management
- Pay & benefits at par with 7th CPC
- Strong Research Grants, Innovation Fund, Career Advancement Scheme, FDPs & Growth Opportunities

INVITING APPLICATIONS FROM ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY

TEACHING POSITIONS Assistant Professor | Associate Professor | Professor | Professor of Practice

DISCIPLINES	SPECIALIZATION
Architecture & Planning	Conservation, Landscape, Urban/Regional & Transportation, BIM, Construction Management
Construction	Construction Technology & Management, Construction Quality, Safety, Project Planning, Procurement & Contracts, Sustainability, GIS, Transportation
Engineering	Structural Engineering, Construction Technology & Management (Estimation, BIM, MSP & Primavera, Concrete Technology) & Engineering Mathematics
Energy & Environment	Environmental Sustainability, Sustainable Energy Management
Project Management	MEP, Project & Construction Management
Management	Finance, Marketing, Human Resource & Organizational Behavior, Operations, Data Analytics & AI/ML, Law & Liberal Arts, Real Estate Marketing
Real Estate Management	Housing & Real Estate Development, Asset & Facilities Management, Urban Infrastructure, Corporate Real Estate

NON-TEACHING POSITIONS • Librarian | • Lab Assistant (Maker Lab)

ELIGIBILITY
- Minimum qualification and experience for each position is as per UGC/AICTE/COA/ITPI norms, as applicable.
- Shortlisting and screening of applications will be merit based.
- University reserves the right to screen the applications and call only shortlisted candidates for the selection process.
- Vacancies based on cadre/specializations etc. for teaching positions are mentioned on the careers page.

Apply at: https://www.nicmar.ac.in/pune/career
Last Date to Apply: 4th March 2026

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
www.rbi.org.in

RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANT - 2025

Reserve Bank of India invites applications from eligible candidates for the post of Assistant (950 posts) in various offices of the Bank. Selection for the post will be through a country-wide centre-wise competitive two phase Online Examination and Language Proficiency Test. The full text of advertisement will be available on the Bank's website (www.rbi.org.in) in the third week of February 2026 and is also being published in Employment News/ Rozgar Samachar. Applications will be accepted only online through the Bank's website.

Important Dates:

Application Submission Window and Payment of Examination Fees Online	February 16, 2026 - March 08, 2026
Date of Preliminary Online Examination (Tentative)	April 11, 2026
Date of Main Online Examination (Tentative)	June 27, 2026

"Don't get cheated by E-mails/ SMSs/ Calls promising you money"

Parul® University
Vadodara, Gujarat
78628 47954 NAAC GRADE A+
www.parul-university.ac.in

DEAN & PRINCIPAL
FACULTY OF NURSING

Parul University invites applications from accomplished academic leaders for the position of Dean and Principal – Faculty of Nursing. The role involves providing strategic leadership in academics, clinical education, curriculum development, research, faculty management, and regulatory compliance aligned with the University's vision. Candidates must demonstrate strong academic credentials and proven leadership experience.
Qualifications and experience as per Council norms.

Interested candidates can apply within 7 days of this advertisement at vacancies.parul-university.ac.in Registrar

Bits&Bytes

Gates to speak at AI Summit

Amid the uncertainty over the participation of Microsoft founder **Bill Gates** at the summit, Gates Foundation on Tuesday said that the billionaire will be attending the event on Thursday, as scheduled. He is to deliver his keynote address.

There was speculation over his participation after his photo went missing from the event's website on Tuesday morning. Govt officials did not provide a clear answer. However, responding to a query from **TOI**, Gates Foundation spokesperson said: **"Bill Gates is attending the AI Impact Summit. He will be delivering his keynote as scheduled."** Gates has been in the midst of Jeffrey Epstein controversy

Photo: Pyel Studio/Getty

WIRED WOOF: Visitors try to snap a robotic dog during the summit

Micro-nuke for AI energy

India is exploring micro-nuclear energy units to meet the AI energy needs as a possible long-term solution. Startups have proposed micro-nuclear reactors as a safer and a more efficient option to power data centres and AI compute facilities, govt officials said

WEDNESDAY'S AI AGENDA

9.15am | Demis Hassabis CEO and co-founder, Google DeepMind to speak

9.30am | IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to speak at the launch of working group deliverables for the summit

9.30am | Eleventlabs co-founder Mati Staniszewski to speak

10.30am | Ministers from several countries to deliberate on safe and responsible AI in digital public infrastructure

UPI for AI: India offers 'bouquet of trusted solutions' to world

'Want To Balance Innovation With Accountability'

Manish Gohain
@timesofindia.com

Pavilions with humanoids on display are the biggest crowd-pullers

New Delhi: The Centre spelt out an ambitious vision for artificial intelligence that borrows directly from one of India's biggest digital success stories — UPI.

The idea, officials said, is to offer the world a "bouquet of trusted AI solutions". A shared, reliable digital backbone that countries and companies can build on, without being locked into proprietary platforms or paying royalties to a few dominant players.

Electronics and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Tuesday India wants to shape how AI is developed and governed globally by balancing innovation with accountability, using its own "techno-legal" approach rather than copying the EU's regulation-heavy framework or the US's market-driven model.

Explaining the UPI parallel, Vaishnaw said India's strength lies in building frugal, low-cost engineering solutions that work at scale and can be shared as global public goods. "We will be creating a bouquet of solutions, which have been tested on security and all possible parameters, and then we will present the same to the world for use and to build on," he said.

Just as UPI was offered globally, India intends to share its AI capabilities in a similar spirit. "We are not asking for any royalty or licence fee. We have given it as a common core," the minister said, adding several countries have already shown interest in adopting digital frameworks similar to India's.

Vaishnaw said that this approach also defines sovereign AI, which he clarified does not mean cutting off global collaboration. "Sovereign AI means having our own models, infrastructure, and ability to take solutions to a large number of people without remaining dependent on anybody else's approval," the minister said.

The push comes amid global anxiety over AI — from job losses and volatile tech markets to fears of monopolisation by big tech firms.

"A good consensus is emerging among global leaders that AI should be used for good and all harmful impacts should be contained," he said.

To address workforce concerns, the minister said the govt is working on three tracks simultaneously: Reskilling the existing workforce, creating new talent pipelines, and updating education curricula. "All three things are happening in parallel," the minister said.

India is also scaling up its AI infrastructure, with plans to add 20,000 GPUs over the next six months to its common compute facility to support startups, researchers and students.

Deepfakes pose direct threat to democracy: Min

New Delhi: Govt on Tuesday made it clear that responsible use of AI is no longer optional — and that a global consensus is already taking shape, with India in talks with more than 30 countries to address the risks and prevent AI misuse.

Union minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** said safeguarding society from the harmful effects of AI, including deepfakes, misinformation and manipulation, has become a political and governance priority across nations.

He said India is engaging with govts across regions to develop common technical and legal solutions to deal with AI misuse, signalling countries are moving beyond broad ethical principles to concrete action. "AI misuse cannot be handled merely by passing a law."

He said issues such as deepfakes and misinformation pose direct threats to democratic institutions, social trust and public safety, making govt intervention unavoidable. He noted that discussions are underway on watermarking AI-generated content, stronger accountability for platforms, and shared safety standards.

IT services will vanish by 2030: Vinod Khosla

Supriya.Roy
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Vinod Khosla, founder of Sun Microsystems and Khosla Ventures, on Tuesday warned that India's IT services industry will cease to exist in its current form by 2030 as artificial intelligence reshapes global services, while predicting that artificial general intelligence could arrive within two years.

"It's very clear to me that people in India don't believe that the whole idea of IT services will go away. By 2030, there will be no such thing as IT services. There will be no such thing as BPO. Those are gone," Khosla said at the India AI Impact Summit.

He said new AI-native services would replace traditional outsourcing models. "There will be new kinds of services based on AI that Indian companies can form and bring to the rest of the world because India has the best engineers, the best talent and education. So, there are opportunities, but those will be very, very disruptive to the Indian economy."

Khosla made a case for AI-led transformation in healthcare. He said he had concluded as far back as 2008 that scaling human doctors alone would not solve access gaps. "If I personally had a trillion dollars and 30 years, I could not get the doctor-patient ratio the same in India as it is in the US," he said. "That's why in 2008 I decided the only solution was an AI doctor."

He estimated delivering daily primary care to 300 million Indians could cost "less than a billion dollars or $2 billion a year," calling it a small fraction of national healthcare expenditure.

More broadly, Khosla added the adoption of AI would be shaped less by technological capability and more by politics. "The biggest issue to be managed very, very carefully is politics. Politics, not technical capability, will be the key determinant of what is adopted and what's not adopted."

Khosla suggested that work itself may become optional. "By 2040, it will be very clear nobody needs jobs because enough production of goods and services will be near free," he said, arguing that people would pursue passions rather than employment.

HC: While using AI, there is great responsibility upon the party

▸ Continued from P1

Bombay HC said, "A strong pointer is seen from a reference made to one alleged caselaw 'Jyoti w/o Dinesh Tulsiani Vs. Elegant Associates'. Neither citation is given nor a copy of judgment is supplied by the Respondent. This court and its law clerks were at pains to find out this case law but could not find it."

"This has resulted in the waste of precious judicial time. If an AI tool is used in aid of research, it is welcome, however, there is great responsibility upon the party, even an advocate using such tools, to cross verify the references and make sure that the material generated by the machine/computer is relevant, genuine and in existence," the high court said.

In March last year, Karnataka HC had taken adverse note of a city civil judge relying on non-existent SC judgments to pass an order and had said that this would require further inquiry.

CJI Surya Kant and Justices Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi also recalled how crisp petitions used to be drafted by senior advocate and former law minister A K Sen.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal said he learned drafting from Sen, who used to limit a petition to a few pages compared to voluminous ones filed today.

'Think big': Deep tech investors call for scale

Supriya.Roy@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India needs to think beyond incremental gains and build globally competitive deep tech companies, investors said at the AI Impact Summit on Tuesday, arguing frugality and scale could position the country as a long-term innovation hub.

"The chase that's inherited in India and the frugality that's there breeds innovation. The moment you have a large amount of surplus, you never look at optimisation. The greatest deep tech innovations across the world have always happened from a place of frugality," said Siddarth Pai, co-founder of 3one4 Capital.

Pai said India's structural constraints must not be viewed as disadvantages but as conditions that force sharper engineering and capital efficiency.

Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder of Axilor Ventures and Infosys, urged founders to target global markets from the start. "What's required is to think big. We have examples of technology from India going global. Our MOSIP open-source identity programme is running in 29 countries; 300 million people got IDs with that...," he said.

Gopalakrishnan said while foundational technologies such as AI, robotics and quantum computing require patient capital and policy innovation, the larger opportunity lies in applying these technologies across sectors such as agriculture, healthcare and education.

A report released at the event underscored the growing investor focus on AI and deep tech. AI companies attracted 188 investments worth $1.2 billion in 2025, marking a 58% year-on-year increase. AI now accounts for 12% of total venture capital funding, up from under 5% in 2020.

Healthcare benefits only if it improves patient outcomes: Philips Roundtable

New Delhi: Artificial intelligence will truly transform healthcare only when it improves patient outcomes on the ground, not by the sheer number of algorithms deployed, Royal Philips CEO Roy Jakobs said Tuesday.

At a high-level roundtable Jakobs said, "Artificial intelligence will have its greatest impact in healthcare, but only if it delivers real outcomes... Success will be defined by delivering better care for more people." He stressed that AI must be embedded into clinical workflows, designed with transparency and guided by human oversight. "AI should enhance human judgment, not replace it," he said, adding that its most immediate benefit lies in reducing administrative burden and giving time back to clinicians.

Highlighting India's progress, union minister of state for health Anupriya Patel said AI is already embedded across the healthcare continuum. "From disease surveillance to prevention, diagnosis and treatment, AI is everywhere in our health system," she said. Patel cited the use of AI in disease surveillance to monitor digital news in multiple languages and generate real-time outbreak alerts, which, she said, has "enhanced our surveillance capacity and strengthened disease control efforts."

She said initiatives such as the One Health Mission underline how AI is being used as a force multiplier. TNN

16001/21/2526

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

AI IMPACT SUMMIT
भारत 2026 INDIA
सर्वजन हिताय | सर्वजन सुखाय
WELFARE FOR ALL | HAPPINESS OF ALL

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

Experience the future of Artificial Intelligence at the
India AI Impact Summit 2026

Step into the Odisha Pavilion to explore cutting-edge innovations, transformative digital solutions, and collaborative opportunities that showcase Odisha's vision for AI-driven growth.

Visit Odisha Pavilion

16-20 February 2026

Hall no. 5, First floor, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India

Electronics & Information Technology Department, Government of Odisha

OIPR-16001/16003/2/25-26/0817

SHRAVASTI: A DISTRICT TRANSFORMED

A JOURNEY ROOTED IN PURPOSE

Shravasti's progress under the 'Aspirational Districts Programme' is driven by a holistic, multi-sector approach focused on inclusive growth and measurable development outcomes.

Weightage and score of Key Performance Indicators across core sectors:

Basic Infrastructure	Education	Health & Nutrition
SCORE 92.4 (June 2025)	SCORE 83 (June 2025)	SCORE 84 (June 2025)

Shravasti is steadily emerging as a symbol of focused governance and inclusive growth under the Aspirational Districts Programme. Its developmental trajectory since 2018 is a testament to the power of administrative focus. Targeted interventions across health, education, infrastructure and livelihoods have accelerated the district's development trajectory

ODOP CRAFTS & INDUSTRIES OF SHRAVASTI

- Traditional craftsmanship is deeply rooted in the district's community, with artisans producing a broad range of handmade goods for local, national and international markets
- The craft sector encompasses creative and design-based activities, including textile work, paper, plant-fibre products, and wooden materials
- Local artisans produce a variety of textile products, including cloth sheets, covers and stylish tablecloths, showcasing intricate skill and cultural aesthetics
- Also well-known for its furniture manufacturing industry, which draws upon the districts abundant forest resources
- Local wood, such as rosewood, teak, Acacia (babool) and neem wood, is used in producing high-quality furniture, with around 97% of timber demand met locally
- The furniture produced in the district is widely used in local ceremonies and functions, reflecting both cultural preference and confidence in its durability and craftsmanship
- Shravasti made furniture is regularly exhibited at national level exhibitions, helping to raise the district's profile and attract wider market interest
- The products are marketed not only within the district but also in nearby cities, expanding economic opportunities for local craftsmen
- The furniture sector plays a vital role in generating employment, offering livelihoods to a significant number of local families and contributing to the district's rural economy

Tribal craft is a speciality of Shravasti

Handicrafts made from Moonj

Textiles

WHERE SPIRITUAL HERITAGE MEETS MODERN TOURISM

- Shravasti has been identified with the remains at Sahet-Maheth, situated on the banks of the river Rapti
- Once the capital of ancient Kosala kingdom, Shravasti is sacred to the Buddhists because it is here that Lord Buddha performed the greatest of his miracles to confound the Tirthika heretics
- These miracles include the Buddha creating multiple images of himself, which has been a favourite theme of Buddhist art. It is well-connected with good roads constructed under Buddhist-Circuit

Daen Mahasengkor Temple, Shravasti

- The sprawling complex of Buddhist stupas is believed to have been founded by the mythological king Sravasti. The town played host to the Buddha for 27 years and was his annual rainy season retreat
- The excellently-preserved ruins have a meditative air around them and amid them stands an ancient Bodhi Vriksh (tree)
- The huge World Peace Bell in Shravasti, established with Japanese help, is said to convey the message of humanity through its toll

INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSFORMATION

100%
All-Weather Access Road under PMGSY

100%
Universal Toilet Coverage

100%
Common Service Centres

MAKING PROGRESS

99.53%
Completion of Permanent Houses

99.31%
Access to Potable Water

LAKHPATI DIDI

Community Resource Persons (CRPs) **432**

Potential Lakhpati Didis (PLDs) **18,781**

Digital Aajeevika Register (DARs) **41,026**

CONNECTIVITY

Road: Well-connected to the rest of UP by roadways. The nearest mega terminus is at Gonda that is 93 kilometers from the downtown Shravasti. Gonda is well-connected by bus to cities like Lucknow, Bareilly, Kanpur, Allahabad, Agra and Mathura. Both Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation as well as private players operates these buses

Rail: The nearest railhead is Balrampur. Gonda railway station that is also nearby is a better option when it comes to connectivity

The proposed Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur Siddharthnagar and Sant Kabir Nagar rail line will improve connectivity in border and aspirational districts, opening regional development and economic activity

EDUCATION REFORMS ARE YIELDING POSITIVE RESULTS

HEALTHCARE & NUTRITION: MILESTONES

Shravasti has been performing remarkably well in maternal care, child nutrition, healthcare infrastructure, including TB management till December 2025

Maternal & Child Health Excellence

99.47% Full Immunisation Coverage

100% Registration & Nutrition Compliance

99.29% Percentage of newborns breastfed within one hour of birth

Healthcare Infra & Disease Control

100% Specialised Service Availability

95.36% TB Treatment Success Rate

90% PHCs meeting IPHS norms

INFRASTRUCTURE MILESTONES

Proportion of sub-centres/PHCs converted into health & wellness centres	79.08%
Anganwadis with own buildings	63.29%
NABAS/LaQshya Certified Labour Rooms	50%

FINANCIAL INCLUSION & SKILL ENHANCEMENT

- A targeted increase in Mudra loan disbursements from Rs 7.1 crore (March 2018) to Rs 6.73 crore (September 2025) per 1 lakh population signifies a strategic intent to infuse greater capital into the local economy
- Transitioning from basic banking to active risk mitigation through insurance and pension schemes marks the shift from mere financial presence to true financial resilience
- The number of enrolments under **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana** per one lakh population increased from 1,713 as on March 31, 2018 to 18,260 by September 2025
- The number of enrolments under **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana** per one lakh population rose from 5,389 as on March 31, 2018 to 30,766.96 by September 2025
- The number of beneficiaries under **Atal Pension Yojana** per one lakh population increased from 250 as on March 31, 2018 to 4,282 by September 2025.
- Demonstrated remarkable success in gender inclusive training and BC representation, meeting 2025-2026 target

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

CONTRAPUNTO

Research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I'm doing

- WERNHER VON BRAUN

Get Halfway There

India should be realistic about AI sovereignty. Given where it is, 50% of the job done will be creditable

The year opened with Trump capturing Maduro, underscoring the extent to which even a major state's sovereignty can be constrained by US military reach. When it comes to AI, however, almost every nation except US is similarly constrained – able to develop and deploy AI only so far as global tech supply chains, cloud infra and chip exports permit.

Consider China. At the start of last year, its DeepSeek AI models were disrupting US markets by outpacing established chatbots and prompting stock gyrations. This month, China's ByteDance released Seedance 2.0, an advanced text-to-video generation model that has gone viral domestically and caught global attention for its film-quality outputs. Hollywood studios and rights holders have already raised copyright concerns, arguing that such models operate without meaningful safeguards against infringement. Despite the capability on display, China's AI ecosystem remains only partly sovereign – heavily dependent on foreign-made high-end chips that Washington can restrict.

India is even further from AI sovereignty. It doesn't yet possess a homegrown foundational model of anywhere near world-class scale, nor does it have the sprawling, hyperscale data-centre capacity needed for large-model training and inference at scale. That's why the Adani Group's announcement of a planned $100bn investment in renewable-powered AI data centres and a sovereign cloud platform by 2035 is significant, even if stretched over a decade. This commitment, unveiled at the AI Impact Summit in Delhi, comes amid wider interest in India's AI infra build-out: govt is reportedly targeting up to $200bn in data-centre investments to make India a global AI hub. Already, Adani has explored investing in Google's AI data-centre projects in India, signalling private-sector appetite to add compute muscle.

Meanwhile, worldwide AI development is exploding. Computation used for training powerful models – often described as "training compute" – continues to rise rapidly, demanding vast clusters of specialised chips. Large tech firms have poured vast sums into AI: US alone saw nine-figure investments in 2024 and continued heavy spending in 2025 and 2026, dwarfing early Indian commitments.

This intensity reflects a simple truth: AI is no longer a novelty. Tools like Claude's latest upgrade are reshaping professional work, while video models such as Seedance now unsettle creatives. India's advantage – a huge talent pool – gives it one pillar of strength. But without serious investments in compute and foundational model research, it will only ever achieve "half-sovereignty". Chips, meanwhile, remain a longer-term endeavour. Even half sovereignty, however, is better than none – and India's current moment is an opportunity to build it.

That Green Stretch

In Nicobar or in Aravalis, narrow approach to measure environmental impacts is a serious problem

NGT's dismissal of concerns over the environmental cost of the Great Nicobar project is almost certain to be challenged in Supreme Court. The scale of the project – a port, power plant, airport and township – has deeply alarmed conservationists for long. Great Nicobar's biological wealth and evolutionary significance rival that of Galapagos Islands, often described as a living museum of evolution. It is, to say the least, not an ordinary landscape.

NGT upheld that no coral reefs were found at the precise project footprint and that nearby reefs would be "relocated" for protection. Of the 20,668 coral colonies identified, 16,150 are to be translocated, while the "threat" to the remaining 4,518 will be studied. The relocation plan, first documented in 2019, is projected to take 30 years, with the initial decade alone costing ₹35cr. This technocratic framing echoes the incremental weakening of safeguards seen in the Aravalis over decades. Institutions tasked with environmental protection often reduce complex ecological realities to narrow definitional thresholds – hills above 100m in Aravalis, "no coral reef, no nesting" in Galathea Bay. Both claims on Galathea Bay are contested. But even if accepted, corals enjoy the same legal protection as tigers and elephants. That protection must mean preservation in situ, not displacement.

Marine ecosystem is already under stress from climate change – warming waters, bleaching events and mangrove loss. Dredging Galathea Bay, with inevitable silt displacement, and felling rainforest will only intensify these pressures. Afforestation cannot replicate the intricate web of a mature ecosystem. Nicobar's strategic imperatives are real but they cannot justify a narrow reading of environmental risks that can irreversibly damage biodiversity and ecological balance.

All us ostriches

World's largest bird & we have something in common

Jug Suraiya

Does the ostrich, the large flightless bird native to Africa, have a behaviour pattern in common with us?

Popular lore has it that the ostrich, the largest bird in the world, has a curious response when it feels it might face a disagreeable situation: it buries its head in the ground.

This alleged behaviour is based on the supposition that if you can't see something unpleasant then it doesn't exist.

Psychologists have likened this supposed evasive tactic to the human response of deliberately avoiding knowledge of the unpleasant by refusing to see and acknowledge it, and call it the struthionine syndrome, struthionine being the adjective for ostriches.

For example, ostrich-like behaviour is displayed by the spendthrift who keeps spending, wilfully shutting out the caveats of the bank manager regarding growing overdrafts, and the cautionary advice of family and friends, and the piled-up stacks of unpaid bills.

Similarly, patients who ignore their doctor's injunctions about changes of lifestyle in order to avoid health problems, and postpone looking at the results of their medical tests that they suspect will be red-flagged with ominous warnings.

second*opinion*

We'reall a bit struthionine in our own ways by convincing ourselves that if we don't see it, it don't exist, never mind logic or the rules of grammar.

And much struthionineness was in evidence as Delhi prepared to host the glitzy, ongoing AI summit, which is attended by a global galaxy of luminaries, from heads of state like France's Emmanuel Macron, and corporate bigwigs like Sundar Pichai of Google.

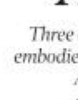
The municipal authorities of the capital reportedly were told to clean up the city's act by shepherding the homeless from their customary residence on pavements and under flyovers to special shelters, hidden from the gaze of our VIP guests, whose arrival caused hotel prices to soar upwards to over ₹5L for a night, going up to ₹15L for a swanky seven-star suite.

Once the event is over at the weekend, the homeless presumably will be restored to their habitual environs. Till the next VIP visitation gives us a heads-up. Heads down!

AI Isn't The Danger, We Are

Three experts nix the hype about AGI making human labour obsolete. Human intelligence is social, embodied, 8bn people strong. Danger is not that AI will out-think humanity. But that we won't build the AI applications to make farmers more productive, help students learn, and doctors cure

Celeste Rodriguez Louro



Deputy Chair, Generative AI Think Tank

As New Delhi hosts the AI Impact Summit, conversations about artificial intelligence are intensifying. We are repeatedly told that AI is on the brink of surpassing human intelligence, that so-called "superintelligence" is just around the corner, and will soon transform every dimension of society.

The pace of progress in large language models (LLMs) and generative systems is impressive. AI can draft essays, translate languages, write computer code, diagnose diseases and even compose music. It can clone voice and impersonate. On specific tasks, machines can outperform individual humans in speed and scale.

But the key question is not whether AI can outperform a person on a narrow benchmark. It is whether AI is approaching *human-level intelligence*. And that depends on what we mean by intelligence in the first place.

- The comparison often being made today rests on a flawed assumption: that intelligence is primarily an individual cognitive capacity – something that can be measured by performance on tests or tasks. If a machine can pass an exam or produce a convincing argument, it is said to be as intelligent as a human.

This framing mirrors traditional IQ-style testing, which has long been criticised for cultural bias and for rewarding familiarity and training rather than deeper understanding. When we reduce intelligence to a set of measurable outputs, it becomes easier for machines to appear comparable.

- But human intelligence is not simply individual brilliance. It is social.

Every major human achievement – scientific breakthroughs, artistic revolutions, technological innovation – is the product of collective processes. No scientist works in isolation. Discoveries rely on shared methods, peer review, institutions, and generations of accumulated knowledge. Oral culture rests on rich storytelling traditions, knowledge transfer, and group cohesion. Language itself is a collective achievement shaped over thousands of years.

Research on "collective intelligence" consistently shows that diverse groups can outperform even their most capable individual members when communication and cooperation are effective. Our intelligence is distributed across families, communities, institutions, and cultures. It is cumulative and collaborative.

AI systems do not participate in this collective dimension. They do not cooperate with one another in shared social worlds, negotiate meaning, form relationships or assume responsibility. They generate responses based on patterns in data, without awareness, intention or accountability.

- Human intelligence is also embodied. From infancy, we learn through touch, movement, imitation, and shared attention. Developmental psychology shows that abstract reasoning grows out of physical and social experience. Our emotions, bodily sensations and cultural environments shape how we think.

AI has no such grounding. LLMs are disembodied from physical bodies and social groupings. They learn statistical associations from vast collections of text. They do not "understand" in the way humans do; they calculate probabilities. They do not experience fear, joy, empathy or doubt. They do not navigate social norms through lived participation in communities.

This limitation becomes particularly evident in ethical contexts. Humans reason morally within shared systems of values shaped by history, culture and social interaction. Machines, by contrast, simulate responses based on patterns in training data. They do not possess moral agency.

- There is another important constraint that receives less attention: the data on which AI systems are trained represents only a narrow slice of humanity.

Although more than 7,000 languages are spoken worldwide, most of the online content exists in a handful of dominant languages. Estimates suggest that around 80% of internet content is produced in just ten languages. Entire cultures, oral traditions, and knowledge systems remain under-represented or absent in machine-readable form.

When AI models are trained on this limited corpus, they inevitably reflect the assumptions, values, and biases of a relatively small segment of the global population. By contrast, human intelligence is shaped by the lived experiences of eight billion people across diverse environments, traditions, and social systems.

AI does not have direct access to this richness. It cannot independently explore new cultural worlds or generate genuinely novel forms of collective meaning. It depends on human-produced data, which is incomplete and uneven.

- There are also practical limits to scaling. Large models improve by ingesting high-quality human-generated text. But this resource is finite. Researchers have warned that we are approaching the limits of available training data.

One proposed solution is to train models on content generated by other AI systems. Yet this risks creating feedback loops in which errors and simplifications are amplified. Instead of learning from the world, systems learn from distorted reflections of themselves – an echo chamber rather than an expansion of understanding.

None of this means AI is unimportant. On the contrary, it is already transforming industries, education, governance, and research. Used well, AI can increase efficiency, expand access to information and support human decision-making. For a country like India, with its vast population and digital ambition, AI offers significant opportunities.

But usefulness is not the same as human-level intelligence.

- The real risk is not that machines will suddenly outthink humanity. It is that the AI hype distracts us from urgent issues: bias in automated systems, concentration of power, labour displacement, regulation, and the need for inclusive technological governance.

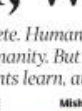
Comparing AI and human intelligence as though they are competitors in the same category is misleading. Humans are not isolated information processors. We are social, embodied, and ethical beings whose intelligence emerges from cooperation, diversity and shared meaning. Whether we know it or not, we inherit realities rich in history – much of which is based on the collective efforts of those who came before us, just as we will pave the way for those yet to come.

Claims that AI is on the verge of surpassing us say more about our fascination with technological progress – measured as individual prowess – than about the nature of intelligence itself.

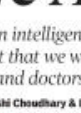
However you look at it – it takes a village.

The writer is Director of Language Lab, University of Western Australia

Mishi Choudhary & Eben Moglen



Tech lawyer, New York



Prof, Columbia Law School

'AI summits' are the great international exposition event of the decade, as nuclear arms control summitry was the primary focus of international theatrical exhibition in the Cold War era. Amid all the hyperventilation and commercial puffery, the most serious issues are being, at least partially, addressed. So, where are we at?

The buzz is all about US hyperscalers declaring that "artificial general intelligence" (AGI) is around the corner, that a few more trillions of borrowed money will allow capital to eliminate labour forever, reducing the power of knowledge workers to nothing, and creating a paradise of infinite profit and total unemployment.

Nothing about this fantasy is true, except the borrowed trillions that inflate their bubble. The kind of software presently called 'AI', more technically referred to as 'machine learning', will never lead to their desired destination. But by making unscrupulous use of vast troves of human behaviour collected by 'social media' and equally unscrupulous appropriation of copyrighted cultural material, the platforms have acquired the ability to make low-quality imitations of human language without human thought.

The resulting fake humanness, tricked out with unnerving conversational fluency, produces the 'chatbot', a parlour trick that its proprietors want us to believe is bottled magic, as all pretenders always do.

- Chinese industry will be showcasing the use of similar working parts to achieve a quite different objective. Pursuing not AGI but immediate product utility, Chinese software developers are more fully committed to open-source models and distribution, making and sharing software that reduces the power and hardware requirements necessary to manufacture 'intelligent' products for daily life.

Less apparent is the social ambition behind this, which is to perfect the relationship between technology and the social control intended to make Chinese Communist Party authoritarianism absolute and permanent.

- US giants' AGI delusion, and their bubble-fuelled certainty that if they stop wasting hundreds of billions on their fever dream someone else will get there first, impels them to hurl charges of apocalyptic unsafety at one another, seeking to use regulators, and increasing public fury, as tools of inter-firm competition.

- The Europeans, eager to manufacture and export regulations – the only segment of the industry in which they are potentially competitive – cheerfully join in bemoaning the absence of controls on alchemy. What would happen if they really did start turning muck into gold? Meantime the business of using ChatGPT to turn children's minds into muck is proceeding apace.

This can be the Indian moment. Because the capitalists' paradise where human workers have been replaced by White Man's Robots and chatbot therapists makes no economic or social sense in the real human world.

India is not US. Nor do we need toasters that learn how you like your slice and inform the Commissar Party what you scoop out of your breakfast. We need fully open, user-enabling AI applications that serve humans rather than replace them. We need software tools that make farmers and artisans more productive, help students learn, help doctors take care. We need software whose entire lifecycle, from training to model refinement to deployment, requires only inexpensive accessible hardware and is orders of magnitude less power-hungry. All of this Indians can make, are making, and will be offering not only for domestic use but to Africa and the rest of humanity's billions in decades to come.

This AI Summit the Indian approach to humanity's transformative technology should become, indeed, the human approach. It is time for this century's equivalent of Atoms for Peace, which was the pivot towards peaceful, civilian use of nuclear energy from Cold War tensions. This time too, what is achieved will matter to everyone. Better get it right.

All Things AI

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacred*space*

What all of us have to do is to make sure we are using AI in a way that is for the benefit of humanity, not to the detriment of humanity.

Tim Cook

AI Can Become A Force That Strengthens Humanity

Jaggrat N Taneja

Artificial Intelligence has entered our lives not like a storm but like a subtle shift in the air, quiet, constant, and irreversible. It writes our emails, curates our news, predicts our purchases, and even listens to us through customer care bots. It diagnoses illnesses, anticipates natural disasters, and manages systems far beyond our daily awareness. Yet, beneath this silent revolution lies a question that refuses to fade: Will AI overpower humanity, or will humanity learn to guide AI with wisdom? The answer, as always, lies not in a machine, but in mind that creates it.

Ethics cannot exist as a decorative chapter in a policy manual; it must breathe through everyday decisions. It must guide how datasets are built, how consent is honoured, how privacy is guarded, and how inclusion is ensured. If AI is trained on the loudest voices, it will ignore the softest. If surveillance outpaces legislation, privacy becomes negotiable. If convenience outruns conscience, technology becomes a weapon. Deeper truth is simple: More powerful a tool, greater the moral responsibility of its maker. India's AI ambitions must rest on fairness, transparency, accountability, and humane values that turn technology into a bridge, not a barrier.

Despite doomsday prophecies, AI does not diminish human role, it sharpens it. Machines can recognise patterns, but they cannot feel. They can predict behaviour, but they cannot care. They can speak, but they cannot mean their words. As AI takes over repetitive tasks, human responsibilities rise in depth and discernment. New roles emerge – AI auditors, ethics reviewers, prompt architects, human-supervisory specialists – all reminding us that the machine is not the master but an instrument. Human mind is not competing with AI; it is curating it.

AI brings both hope and hesitation. Forecasts suggest millions of tech-driven jobs will emerge in coming decades.

Generative AI could transform almost every industry from medicine to manufacturing, from governance to education. Yet, studies grow equally fast: algorithmic bias, deepfakes, opaque decision-making, unchecked data harvesting. These are not futuristic fears but present realities. Opportunities are vast, but our responsibility is larger. Ethical clarity must sit at the heart of India's AI journey, not its outskirts.

THE SPEAKING TREE

AI is both a mirror and a map. As a mirror, it reflects who we are, our biases, beliefs, and blind spots. A distorted reflection points not to a broken mirror, but to a society in need of introspection. As a map, AI shows possibilities. Yet a map never chooses a destination; a traveller does. AI has no intention. We do. AI has no moral compass. We must provide one. Our choices today may shape not just our own future, but the ethical blueprint for AI.

Fears like 'AI will take away jobs' overlook a deeper truth: AI may take away tasks, but it cannot take away purpose. It may automate efficiency, but it cannot automate meaning. If approached with clarity, compassion, and conscience, AI can become a force that strengthens human spirit rather than dilute it. The story of coming decades is not a battle between man and machine, but a partnership, where human mind guides machine towards equity, intelligence, and empathy. In the end, it is not AI that will shape partnerships, it is humanity that will shape AI.

DEFENCE TO HEALTH

Why India needs sovereign AI

Kritika.Sharma@timesofindia.com

When India analyses satellite images, sweeps its borders and coastlines, draws up military strategy, maps national assets, monitors its power grid, detects cyberattacks and shores up UPI payment gateways — massive tech operations that run within servers to keep the wheels of daily life in motion — artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer optional.

With tech and geopolitical embrace tightening, models interpreting sensitive information, pointing out anomalies, managing and interpreting data and assisting decision-making are increasingly controlling the synapses of the strategic nervous system.

As the second-largest AI market in the world, India is the toast of the global tech community; evident in the turnout at the ongoing AI Impact Summit in Delhi. But while that is a big economic opportunity for an aspiring superpower, there is a foundational question govt faces in adopting AI into the administrative and security framework: how much can India rely on foreign models?

At the core of this question is data security. Whether it's governance or national security, govts use AI for deep analytics, for which vast amounts of data — public, sensitive and, for military use, strategic — need to be fed into AI models.

Much of the foundational AI infrastructure used globally, such as advanced chips, large language models and hyperscale cloud systems, is concentrated in the US and China, making them disproportionately influential in the AI universe.

In India, therefore, there's growing realisation about sovereign AI for national security. Unless it does, India's use of AI for security, governance and other strategic purposes will be cautious and suboptimal. India also needs AI that's built, hosted and computed here to preserve the "strategic autonomy" of its foreign policy.

In a recent report, 'India's AI Gamble', Mumbai-based think tank Strategic Foresight Group (SFG) calls for an urgent decision by govt on whether India can regulate or control the import of AI models that may risk national security. The report also suggests exploring a mandatory national security assessment framework for models deployed from abroad.

What Are The Threats?

Sundeep Waslekar of SFG says because of AI, there are more asymmetric threats to national security. "National Security Council should check every foreign model that is deployed in India," he says.

Military veteran Lt Gen Satish Dua (retd), a counter-terrorism specialist and the man behind the 2016 Uri surgical strike, tells **TOI** that AI is useful for threat assessment and strategic decision-making. AI tools can analyse data from multiple sensors for weather-based artillery planning and predicting adversary behaviour. "During all this remand, it takes a lot of time, so yes, AI tools can be useful there," he says. But caution, he adds, needs to be applied on how much to trust foreign models with sensitive data.

In a paper, 'Beyond the Kinetic: Deconstructing warfare in the socio-technical cognitive battlespace (STCB)', released in Jan, Lt Colonel Pavithran Rajan (retd) and former head of Northern Command Lt Gen D S Hooda (retd) argue that modern battlefields are increasingly shaped by technology and information manipulation. This became very apparent during Operation Sindoor last year and the subsequent military confrontation with Pakistan, after which India decided to raise its first integrated battle group, Rudra, that fits the needs of modern warfare.

"The application of AI is revolutionising STCB. This includes the weaponisation of AI-generated content (deepfakes, synthetic text) for disinformation campaigns, the use of ML for micro-targeting populations with tailored messaging, and the deployment of AI in autonomous weapons systems," the paper states.

Guarded Use Of AI

Making the case for sovereign AI models, Lt Col Rajan says, "AI will increasingly determine how states govern, secure themselves and project power. In such a world, sovereignty is no longer guaranteed by territory alone. It resides in control over data, algorithms and the cognitive infrastructures that bind them together. Those who treat AI as merely another sector will be governed by it. Those who recognise it as an instrument of power may still shape its terms."

Former diplomat and convener of Centre for Research on Strategic and Security Issues (NatStrat) Pankaj Saran says AI's own vulnerabilities are also a risk factor. When there is sovereign control on AI models, a country can effectively control these threats. "Security vulnerabilities are faced by AI systems themselves. AI can be used by attackers to automate and scale attacks, making defence more challenging," he says. He pointed to initiatives such as NATGRID's AI-enabled Organised Crime Network Database, which aggregates law enforcement data for analysis, and said such systems require strict governance on security, access control and auditing.

As a result, across ministries, AI adoption remains cautious. A source in the ministry of power says AI tools can help forecast generation capacity, particularly in renewable energy but vulnerabilities need to be studied. "Most of our systems are old and will need to be replaced if we want to use AI. But that is not the only issue. If we do it without addressing the weak points, just one cyber attack can switch off the entire grid," the source adds. Big ministries like defence, finance, education and health are similarly wary about deploying AI in core systems without robust safeguards.

National security, public data and sensitive information cannot depend on foreign architecture. There are too many risks, and the AI universe is largely a US-China duopoly

A mural advertises an exhibition on sovereign AI at the sidelines of the ongoing AI Impact Summit in Delhi

Former diplomat Pankaj Saran, convener of (NatStrat), says AI's own vulnerabilities are also a risk factor. When there is sovereign control on AI models, a country can effectively control these threats

Lt Gen Satish Dua (retd), a counter-terrorism specialist and the man behind the 2016 Uri surgical strike, says AI is useful in areas such as threat assessment and strategic decision-making. AI tools can analyse data from multiple sensors for weather-based artillery planning and predicting adversary behaviour

Who's Building Indian AI?

Ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) officials say a key deliverable under the IndiaAI Mission is to build and support Indian foundational models. Additional secretary Abhishek Singh acknowledges that dependence carries strategic risk. "Not having our own model means the data goes to another geography and we are always dependent on it. It can also be used as a strategic tool to deny access," he tells **TOI**. At the AI Impact Summit, sovereign AI models will also be showcased.

Govt has shortlisted 12 startups to build sovereign AI models, including Sarvam AI, Bharat Gen, Gyan AI, Shodh AI, Intellihealth, Genkoop, Socket, Fractal and Tech Mahindra. Among those seen as frontrunners are Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI, the IIT-Bombay-incubated BharatGen and Mumbai-based Fractal. Sarvam AI has released models such as Sarvam Vision and Bulbul V3, which the company claims outperform global competitors on certain benchmarks and are trained on 22 Indian language datasets. Fractal has developed a healthcare model, Vaidya. Bharat Gen is building Bharat Sagar, a model aimed at public policy use cases.

Singh describes five layers of the AI ecosystem: chips, data centres, servers, energy and models and applications. "To be self-reliant, we will have to manage all this on our own," he says.

India has been aggressively making a gambit as a data centre hub, hoping that will give it logistical influence on the AI architecture that supports different operations globally.

Founders of some AI startups building sovereign models, speaking on condition of anonymity, say infrastructure support, including access to GPUs (graphics processing units) and funding, has been slow. A Mumbai-based founder says his company has received only a fraction of the sanctioned funds under the AI mission and has to rely on its own resources.

Open Source, Limited Solution

MeitY released India AI Governance Guidelines in Nov 2025, outlining recommendations on risk identification, inter-agency collaboration and national security safeguards. A MeitY source says that in govt systems, open-source models are downloaded and hosted on domestic servers rather than accessed via foreign-hosted APIs. "For example, in govt when we are using something in NIC (National Informatics Centre), we don't use any of the models that are hosted outside. These are open-source models that we download and then host on our machines, on our local infrastructure. Then we offer the services here. That way, the data resides in India," the source says.

Open-source use has limitations. While it protects data, AI controls remain with the provider of the LLM. So, the user must depend on the provider for upgrades, customisations, etc. In areas of national importance, this means a critical time lag between problem and solution.

Prakash Kumar, former IAS officer and currently CEO of Wadhwani Centre for Digital Govt Transformation, says big companies in India that use AI models have parts with companies like OpenAI and Anthropic to make sure their data does not go anywhere. "As far as I know, govt does not have any such pact with AI companies so far," he says.

In the meantime, Saran says, India can draw lessons from European Union's data protection regime. "India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act is a step forward, but it needs clear guidelines for consent, minimisation and data retention limits," he says, stressing cyber awareness and resilience across institutions and citizens.

SOVEREIGN AI STRATEGIC SPECTRUM

(Green = Lower Security Concern ➡ Red = Highest Strategic Sensitivity)

CATEGORIES

- Creative & Media Production
- Retail & e-commerce
- HR & Enterprise Productivity
- Education & Training
- Healthcare (Civilian)
- Agriculture & Food Systems
- Smart Cities & Urban Governance
- Banking & Financial Infrastructure
- Energy & Utilities
- Telecommunications
- Transportation Systems
- Defence Mfg & Supply Chains
- Law Enforcement & Internal Security
- Cybersecurity Systems
- Information & Influence Operations
- Intelligence & Surveillance
- Military Command & Control
- Nuclear & Strategic Deterrence

This is an illustrative list, not an exhaustive one

UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Government House, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, Pin Code-248001, Email: uacda@gmail.com
No. PR/UCADA/1826 Date: 17/02/2026

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from Indian ex-servicemen/Retired personnel for the following Pan-India Contract Positions. Interested Candidates may apply within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of this advertisement.

S.No.	Post Name	Place of Work	Vacancy	Remarks
1	Senior Driver	Rishikesh Valley (Zero Point Pilot Training)	01	For One Year
2	Operation Manager	Helipad Valley (Helipad)	01	Gross Pay 35000
3	Aviation Engineer	Sahastradhara, Dehradun Valley (Helipad)	02	
4	Helipad Manager	Rishikesh, Sahastradhara, Dehradun Valley, Mussoorie, Chakrata, Nainital, Ranikhet (Uttarakhand)	03	
5	VIP Operator	Rishikesh Valley	06	
6	ACCOD Operator	Sahastradhara, Rishikesh Valley	06	
	Total		22	

Last Date for Receipt of Applications: Date 25 Feb, 2026
Applications should reach UCADA through E-mail uacda@gmail.com (Subject line of E-mail to be mentioned as Post Name) or by post at the address given above.
Chief Executive Officer, UCADA

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Director General of Police, Police Computer Wing,
7th Floor, M.S. Building, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru 560001.
E-mail: dgpcw@ksp.gov.in Tel No.080-22236371

NO.41/STS/DGP/PCW/2025-26 Dated: 16.02.2026

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The tender are invited in "Two Cover System" as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through e-Tender of Government of Karnataka website (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for IT and Non IT Equipments at Data Center in the Karnataka State. The Experienced vendors in this field can submit the tenders. The following are the details of the Tender.

Sl. No	Tender No.	Particulars	Qty	Last Date for submission of tender
1	KSP/2025-26/SE0088	Annual Maintenance Services for IT/NON-IT Equipments at Data Center	131	04.03.2026 17.30 HRS

For further details of the tender and the tender documents can be obtained from the public procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-
Director General of Police,
Police Computer wing, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/6666/N/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
(TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT)
Office of the Commissioner for Transport & Road Safety,
1st Floor, 'A' Block, TTMC Building, Shantinagar,
Bengaluru-560027.Ph: 080-22214068 e-mail:kctadmin-tran-ka@nic.in

No.CT/F&B-3/PR-157&160/2024-25 Dated: 17.02.2026.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Quotations are invited by Transport Department from the eligible firms for Establish and maintain Automatic Testing Stations on BOO & DBFOT Model at Cluster-1 & Cluster-4 locations. Quotations along with necessary documents shall be submitted through Online in e-Procurement platform only. For more details please log on to e-procurement website kppp.karnataka.gov.in They may take assistance from e-procurement help desk at +91-8046010000/+91-8068948777 Last date for submission of Bids is: 02.03.2026. up to 5.00 P.M. For clarifications please Contact 080- 22235176

Cluster-1 : Tender No. TD/2024-25/SE0077/CALL-2
Cluster-4 : Tender No. TD/2025-26/SE0102/CALL-4

Sd/-
Commissioner for Transport
Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/6663/N/A/N/2025-26

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Tender Notice

e-Tenders were invited for supply of 1) 1,25,00,000 No's of Bio Compostable Laddu carry covers 2) 300 cans of Dettol Antiseptic Liquid (Each 5 Litre cans) through e-tenders to the Marketing Department, TTD Devasthanams. For further notice and tender details log on to the web site https://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264679, 2264555, FAX No: 0877-2264554.

TTD-08231/1/2026-PRO SDC (Ads No. 401) Date : 17-02-2026 **Executive Officer**

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM BHAVAN, Delhi, Bengaluru - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2455706 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: MESCOM/SE(Proj)/EE(R)/2025-1857348 Date: 17.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP Web Only)

MESCOM invites tender for the work of Construction of 33kV feeder line using single run UG cable from existing 220/110/33/11kV GIS Kavoor to existing 33/11kV Uma market GI Substation for a distance of 11kms to create an alternative source of supply to 33/11kV Mannagudda, Kudroli & Uma market Substations in Mannagudda Subdivision of Mangalore Division on Turnkey Basis vide bid enquiry number **MESCOM/2025-26/UG/WORK_INDENT402.**

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 18.02.2026.**

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Projects)

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ಮಾಣಗೇರೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸೋರ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಮಾದರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ)

ಅಕ್ಷರ 2.0 ಯೋಜನೆ- ಇ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಮರ್ಥಗೊಳಿಸುವುದು ಯೋಜನೆ : ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವಿಶೇಷ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಬಂಡವಾಳ ವೆಚ್ಚ) - ಇ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಮರ್ಥ ಬಲಪಡಿಸುವುದು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. 2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಸಂಬಳದ ಅನುದಾನ/ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ/ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು, ಮಾಲೀಕರ ಸಿಡಿಗೆ ನೇರ ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೊಟೇಷನ್ ಪೇಪರ್‌ಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಹತೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜುಪಟ್ಟಿ (ವಿವರಣೆ/ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಯನ್ನು) ಮತ್ತು ಅಳತೆಯನ್ನು/ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಲು, ಕಾಲ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೊಟೇಷನ್ ಬೇಕಾದ ಸೈಟ್ kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಸಿಡಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕಾದ ಸಿಡಿಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 08835 236444 ಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದು.

ಸೂಚನೆ : 1) ಈ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೊತ್ತ ನಗರಸಭೆಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಮಾಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಮೊತ್ತ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಿದ್ದು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಮೊತ್ತ ಅನುಮತಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 2) ಈ ಕೊಟೇಷನ್ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಯು ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಇದೆಯೆಂದು ಕೊಟೇಷನ್ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಸಮರ್ಪಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಪತ್ರ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕೊಟೇಷನ್‌ಗಳು ಕೊಟೇಷನ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05.03.2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದ ಒಳಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸಮಯ ಮುಕ್ತ ಹೇಳಿ : 06.03.2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ಘಂಟೆ ಒಳಗೆ ಸಿಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ/ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 26.02.2026 ಸಮಯ : 3.00 ಘಂಟೆ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಯ ಕೊಟೇಷನ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮುಕ್ತ ಹೇಳಿ : 27.02.2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.30 ಘಂಟೆ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಯ ಕೊಟೇಷನ್ ತೆರೆದಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮುಕ್ತ ಹೇಳಿ : 02.03.2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ಘಂಟೆ

ಸಹಾಯಕ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್/ಸಿಡಿ/
ಮಾಣಗೇರೆ/2025-26

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು,
ಮಾಣಗೇರೆ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮಾಣಗೇರೆ

If a Stock is Worth ₹80, Would You Buy it at ₹150?
That ₹70 gap isn't a number - it's your edge or your loss.
Master valuation frameworks that help you spot this gap before you invest.

ET THE ECONOMIC TIMES
Invites You To
Join The Masterclass On
Value And Valuation

What You'll Learn
- Mastering Financial Statement Analysis
- Using Fundamental Ration For Stock Valuation
- Identifying Competitive Advantages (Moats)
- Assess Fair Value To Avoid Overpaying And Spot Opportunity
- Identify Value Traps That Look Cheap But Destroy Wealth

Seats Are Filling Fast, **Register Today!**

SCAN TO REGISTER

WhatsApp: +91 70653 95198
Website: http://ecoti.in/8ckC7Z63
Email: valuation@economictimes.com

A TIMES INTERNET PRODUCT

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

SORROW LOOKS BACK, WORRY LOOKS AROUND, FAITH LOOKS UP
— RALPH WALDO EMERSON

JADA PINKETT SMITH SEEKS DISMISSAL OF $3M LAWSUIT FILED BY WILL SMITH'S FORMER FRIEND ALLEGING SHE THREATENED HIM

CARMEN ELECTRA REVEALS IDEAL DATE: 'YOU WANNA KEEP THAT SPARK ALIVE. I LIKE ARTISTS, WHATEVER THEIR ART MAY BE'

We can become catalysts for each other's growth: Modi to Tarique

India Ready To Support B'desh In Building A Democratic, Inclusive Nation: Birla

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla with PM Tarique Rahman in Dhaka on Monday

Foreign secretary Vikram Misri with Jamaat-e-Islami chief Shafiqur Rahman

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: BNP's landslide win in the Feb 12 parliamentary elections set in motion the end of Muhammad Yunus's role as chief adviser.

PM Modi was invited to Tarique Rahman's swearing-in ceremony in Dhaka but could not attend as he had a bilateral with French President Emmanuel Macron in Mumbai, a meeting decided weeks in advance. "Your victory is a testimony to the trust and confidence reposed by the people of Bangladesh in your leadership and their mandate for your vision to take the country forward on the path of peace, stability and prosperity," Modi said as he invited the new PM, along with his wife Zubaida Rahman and his daughter Zaima, "on a visit to India at a mutually convenient time. A warm welcome awaits you in India."

He said that as two close neighbours, "India and Bangladesh have a deep-rooted friendship founded on shared history, cultural ties, and the aspirations of our peoples for peace and prosperity. The strong convergence between our respective developmental priorities shall serve as a guiding principle for our future cooperation."

Tarique (60) — the first male Bangladesh PM in 35 years — was administered the oath of office by President Mohammed Shahabuddin at the Jatiya Sangsad — the unicameral legislative body of Bangladesh — instead of the president's residence Bangabhaban, in a departure from a long-standing tradition, in the presence of several foreign dignitaries, including Birla who was accompanied by foreign secretary Vikram Misri.

PM Tarique Rahman with his family after the swearing-in ceremony

Modi, who was the first global leader to call Tarique to congratulate him, wrote, "I look forward to working closely with you (PM Tarique) to strengthen our multifaceted bilateral relations, enhance regional cooperation, and advance our common goals in wide-ranging areas of connectivity, trade, technology education, skill development, energy, healthcare, as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

"As two fast-growing economies and aspiring societies, India and Bangladesh can truly can truly become catalysts for each other's sustainable growth, work for each other's security and enable mutual prosperity," Modi said in his letter.

On X, Speaker Om Birla, who called on Tarique after the ceremony, said, "India stands ready to support Bangladesh's endeavours to build a democratic, progressive and inclusive nation."

The Bangladesh PM conveyed his greetings to PM Modi and Speaker Birla. "Both leaders expressed optimism to work together for well-being of the people of Bangladesh and India pursuing people-centric means of cooperation," Bangladesh high commissioner to India Riaz Hamidullah said.

Foreign secy holds courtesy meeting with Jamaat chief

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: Indian foreign secretary Vikram Misri on Tuesday held a courtesy meeting with Bangladesh's leader of opposition and chief of the country's largest Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), Shafiqur Rahman.

India has had a troubled past with Pakistan-leaning Jamaat-e-Islami which sided with Islamabad during the 1971 War of Liberation. The BNP-Jamaat govt 20 years ago was accused of providing safe havens to Indian insurgent groups.

The party has been on-and-off under legal bans. The ban was lifted during the term of the interim govt.

During the meeting — held on the sidelines of the swearing-in ceremony of the new govt led by BNP chief and PM Tarique Rahman — Misri conveyed greetings to the JeI chief on his new role leader of opposition and reaffirmed India's enduring support to Bangladesh, underscoring the people-centric nature of the ties. Shafiqur at the meeting highlighted the deep civilisational bonds shared by the two countries and expressed hope for stronger bilateral ties.

Out of the 300 seats in the elections, results of two seats have been suspended, while election in one seat was cancelled following the death of a candidate. Of the 297 seats, BNP won 209 and JeI got 68.

2 minority community members in new cabinet

Breaking with tradition, the generals' swearing-in ceremony was held at the South Plaza of the national parliament building, instead of the Bangabhaban, the president's official residence. The new govt includes both senior and junior ministers — a mix of experienced BNP leaders and fresh faces. Of the 25 ministers, nine had served in Khaleda Zia's cabinets.

Former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Choudhury was named finance minister, and Khalilur Rahman, who was national security adviser in the interim govt, was made foreign minister. The new cabinet also includes two minority community members, BNP vice president Nitai Roy Choudhury, a Hindu, and Dipen Dewan, a Buddhist. BNP's Salahuddin Ahmed has been appointed home minister, while Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku is the new power, energy and mineral resources minister.

Jamaat, NCP boycott event

Jamaat-e-Islami party and the students' JeI NCP did not attend the ceremony in protest after BNP rejected the interim govt's request for the leaders to take an additional oath under the proposed 'Constitution Reform Council'. The council intends to amend the constitution following the referendum held alongside the elections. AGENCIES

In a sweeping vote, Sri Lankan lawmakers scrap their pensions

Colombo: Sri Lankan legislators overwhelmingly voted on Tuesday to scrap their pensions, in bid to fulfil a key pre-election campaign promise by the ruling Left-leaning govt following anger over the country's economic crisis. Lawmakers passed the bill on Tuesday by 151 votes in the 225-member House, with only two against. The remaining legislators were not present during the vote.

In Sri Lanka, a lawmaker was previously entitled to a pension after serving a five-year term. The new law stops payments to anyone who already receives, or qualifies for, the pension. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, voted into office in 2024, pledged to end the practice during his election campaign.

In a similar move, Dissanayake's govt abolished perks provided to former presidents in Sept in response to popular demand. Those included state funding for housing, allowances, pensions and transport. An office and a staff for former presidents and their widows were also scrapped. There are currently five living past presidents and a widow. EPA

Hillary Clinton slams Epstein 'cover-up', calls for public testimony

Berlin: Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton has accused President Donald Trump of orchestrating a "cover-up" over files related to sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, according to an interview with the BBC published on Monday.

"Get the files out. They are slow-walking it," Clinton, who is due to testify before a Congressional committee on the issue, told the British broadcaster in an interview in Berlin.

The justice department last month released the latest cache of so-called Epstein files. Clinton's husband, former president Bill Clinton, features in the files, but no evidence has come to light implicating either Clinton in criminal activity. The couple has been ordered to give closed-door depositions before the House Oversight Committee. "We will show up but we think it would be better to have it in public," Hillary Clinton told the BBC. "I just want it to be fair," she said. "I want everybody treated the same way." AFP

Have reached 'general agreement' with US on potential N-deal: Iran

Iran said it reached a "general agreement" with the US on the basis of a potential nuclear deal that would lift sanctions on Tehran and ease the risk of war in the Middle East. "We were able to reach a general agreement on a set of guiding principles, based on which we will proceed from now on and move toward drafting a potential agreement," Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi told state TV after talks with US special envoy Steve Witkoff in Geneva.

Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said the two sides will now each draft and exchange texts for a deal before setting a date for a third round of talks

The two sides will each draft and exchange texts for a deal before setting a date for a third round of talks, he said, cautioning that the next stage would be "more difficult and detailed." Oil prices fell on Araghchi's comments, with West Texas Intermediate crude futures falling as much as 3% to dropping below $63 a barrel.

The apparent diplomatic progress came despite growing military deployments in the Persian Gulf. Iran said on Tuesday that it would close part of the Strait of Hormuz — a key choke point for energy exports from the world's top oil-producing region — for hours due to military drills. The US has also sent a second aircraft carrier to the region.

Success in the talks could pave the way for a landmark agreement between Tehran and Washington that would lift a slew of tough sanctions on Iran's oil industry and wider economy in exchange for major restrictions on its nuclear programme.

The Iranian delegation is "ready to stay longer to finalise any agreement, several days or even weeks," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on Tuesday.

Ahead of the talks Tuesday, Iran's leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei stepped up his warnings to Washington. "The US keeps saying 'We sent a warship towards Iran'. Well, a warship is certainly a dangerous weapon, but more dangerous than a warship is the weapon that can sink this warship to the bottom of the sea," he said. BLOOMBERG

Suicide bomber, gunmen kill 11 Pak soldiers & 1 child; 7 civilians hurt

Islamabad: A suicide bomber backed by a group of gunmen rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the wall of a security post after troops signalled for it to stop in a former Pakistani Taliban stronghold in northwestern Pakistan, causing part of the compound to collapse and killing 11 soldiers and a child, the military and police said on Tuesday.

The military said that the attackers overnight had sought to breach the checkpoint but were thwarted by security forces. It said troops later pursued and killed 12 "khawarij," a term authorities use for the Pakistani Taliban, or TTP.

It said the attack occurred Monday night in Bajaur, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province along the Afghan border. The military said nearby civilian homes were also heavily damaged in the blast, killing a young girl and wounding seven other civilians, including women and children.

Police official Zafar Khan said shortly after the suicide bombing, a group of militants tried to sneak into the security post. That triggered a shoot-out that killed 12 militants, he said, adding a that a search was under way in Bajaur. AP

UK college & student group settle Covid disruption case out of court

Naomi Canton

London: Over 6,000 current and former students, including 30 Indians in India, have reached an out-of-court settlement with University College London (UCL) over Covid disruptions and lecturer strikes. This now paves the way for the Student Group Claim to bring legal action on behalf of hundreds of other current and former students, including 270 Indians in India, against a further 36 British universities. These universities, which include Imperial College London, LSE, King's College London, have all been sent pre-action claim letters.

University College London building

The Student Group Claim is a class action of over 170,000 current and former students, of which 400 are Indians in India, seeking damages of hundreds of thousands of pounds against over 100 British universities for Covid and strike-related disruption. They have instructed Harcus Parker and Asserson to seek damages for the fact that between 2018 and 2022 they paid between £9,250 and £40,000 per year for lessons that were cancelled or moved online. The lawyers say that they should receive damages reflecting the difference between the market value of the service they paid for and the market value of the service they received, pointing out online degrees are for cheaper than in-person courses.

Shimon Goldwater, partner at Asserson solicitors, said: "I am very pleased that our clients have been able to achieve a commercial settlement of their claims with UCL. Student Group Claim will now turn its attention to claimants who attended other universities during the pandemic."

Adam Zouhir, partner at Harcus Parker solicitors, said: "Students who were at university during Covid ... received no compensation. Instead, they have been saddled with eye-watering debt from fees and costs for an educational experience that utterly failed them." A UCL statement said it "admitted no liability but agreed to settle so the matter could be resolved amicably."

Warner gives Paramount a week to crack a better deal

Warner Bros Discovery has rejected Paramount Skydance's latest $30-a-share hostile takeover bid, but is giving the Hollywood studio seven days to see if it can come up with a better deal to buy the owner of HBO Max and the "Harry Potter" franchise, Warner Bros said on Tuesday. Paramount informally broached an even higher share price, $31 a share, Warner Bros said, apparently enticing the board to the table.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, TAKEOVER

The rival bidder has until Feb 25 to submit its "best and final offer," which Netflix is allowed to match under the terms of the merger agreement, Warner Bros said. "Our Board has not determined that your proposal is reasonably likely to result in a transaction that is superior to the Netflix merger," Warner Bros Chairman Samuel DiPiazza Jr. and CEO David Zaslav said in a letter sent Tuesday to the Paramount board. "We continue to recommend and remain fully committed to our transaction with Netflix."

The two media giants have been vying for control of Warner Bros, its flagship film and TV studios and deep content library, in a contest that highlights the high stakes of a rapidly shifting entertainment landscape. An unidentified Paramount financial advisor said their offer would be raised to $31 a share if Warner Bros agreed to open negotiations, and they could go even higher, Warner Bros said in the letter. Paramount's share price rose 1.7% in pre-market trading, while Warner Bros was up 2.6%. REUTERS

From AI slop to cinema-grade: How a viral Cruise-Pitt battle put H'wood on high alert

Derrick Bryson Taylor

It took only a 15-second clip of Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt duking it out on a crumbling rooftop at twilight to draw swift outrage, and sizable fear, from Hollywood over the last few days. The widely circulated video was created by Irish director Ruairi Robinson using Seedance 2.0, a powerful artificial intelligence video generation tool owned by Chinese technology company ByteDance. It had plenty of the bells and whistles of a big-budget Hollywood film: sweeping camera angles, slant choreography, crisp sound effects and haunting music.

Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise

With a two-sentence prompt and the click of a button, Seedance had produced a stunningly realistic result that was a drastic improvement over previously generated AI videos, often shoddy clips known as AI slop. This video was so convincing that it drew near immediate condemnation from some of Hollywood's top organisations and companies.

Rhett Reese, a screenwriter known for his "Deadpool" films, said that the Cruise-Pitt video had sent a "cold shiver" up his spine. "For all of us who work in the industry and devoted our careers and lives to it, I just think it's nothing short of terrifying," he remarked. "I could just see it costing jobs all over the place."

ByteDance released Seedance 2.0 last week, nearly two months after a previous version had failed to prompt much anger. A news release from the company praised the updated tool's "physical accuracy, realism and controllability," which it said was suitable for the needs of "professional-grade creative scenarios."

Hollywood was swift to sit up straight. Charles Rivkin, the chair and CEO of the Motion Picture Association, called on ByteDance to "immediately cease its infringing activity," saying in a statement that Seedance 2.0 had engaged in "the unauthorised use of copyrighted works on a "massive scale."

Human Artistry Campaign, a global coalition that advocates using AI "with respect for the irreplaceable artists, performers and creatives," said that unauthorised works generated by Seedance 2.0 violated the "most basic aspects of personal autonomy."

Disney, which in a watershed $1 billion deal last year agreed to allow OpenAI's Sora users to generate video content with its characters, sent a cease-and-desist letter to ByteDance, accusing it of supplying Seedance with a "pirated library" of Disney's characters — "as if Disney's crowned intellectual property were free public-domain clipart."

ByteDance said it was aware of the concerns about Seedance. "We are taking steps to strengthen current safeguards as we work to prevent the unauthorised use of intellectual property and likeness by users," it said.

Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, the national executive director of Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, said it contracts had specific and enforceable rules about digital replication. According to Crabtree-Ireland, the real concern is that, even if videos generated by Seedance and other AI platforms "are not malicious in intent," they could "violate someone's right to control how their image and their voice is used." NYT

DAILY PLANET

Getty Images

Competitors take part in a pancake race on Tuesday in London

Cuban drivers face months-long wait for gasoline on govt app meant to reduce lines

The fuel crisis is forcing Cubans to turn to electric tricycles and bicycle taxis for daily mobility

Drivers in Cuba are facing the prospects of waiting several months to refuel their cars, as fuel shortages caused by a US oil siege intensify. To avoid chaos outside gas stations, Cuba's govt last week made it obligatory for drivers to use an app known as Ticket to get refuelling appointments. But drivers in Havana told AP on Monday that the app is only awarding them appointments several weeks or months from now. "I have (appointment) number seven thousand and something," said Jorge Reyes, a 65-year-old who downloaded the app on Monday. Reyes signed up to refuel at a gas station in Havana that is only awarding 50 appointments per day. So, on WhatsApp groups some drivers are sharing information on which places might be less crowded or which gas stations have a greater capacity to serve customers, noting that some locations are awarding up to 99 appointments per day. But that is of little comfort to those who have downloaded the app, only to find out there are up to 10,000 appointments ahead of theirs.

Logan Paul's ultra rare Pokemon card sells for record $16 million

An extremely rare Pokemon card owned by American YouTuber **Logan Paul** sold on Monday for $16,492,000, smashing the record for the most expensive Pocket Monster trading card sold at an auction. The supposedly unique PSA 10-graded Pikachu illustrator was originally bought by Paul in another record-breaking sale in 2021 — for $5.28 million. This time it was purchased by AJ Scaramucci, son of former White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci, according to Guinness World Records, who were at the auction held by Goldin.

Jesse Jackson, civil rights leader and US presidential hopeful, dies at 84

Washington: Charismatic US civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, an eloquent Baptist minister who became a close associate of Martin Luther King Jr and twice ran for the Democratic presidential nomination, has died at age 84, his family said Tuesday. "Our father was a servant leader, not only to our family, but to the oppressed, the voiceless, and the overlooked around the world," the Jackson family said in a statement.

Jackson, an inspirational orator and long-time Chicagoan, was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2017. His death comes at a time when the administration of President Trump has targeted US institutions to remove what the president calls "anti-American" ideology, leading to the dismantling of slavery exhibits, the restoration of Confederate statues and other moves that civil rights advocates say could reverse decades of social progress.

The media-savvy Jackson advocated for the rights of Black Americans and other marginalised communities during back to the turbulent civil rights movement of the 1960s spearheaded by his mentor King, a Baptist minister and towering social activist. Jackson weathered a spate of controversies but remained America's pre-eminent civil rights figure for decades.

Jackson hosted a weekly show on CNN from 1992 to 2000, pressed corporations for Black economic empowerment, and received the highest US civilian honour in 2000

Jackson ran for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988, attracting Black voters and many white liberals in mounting unexpectedly strong campaigns but fell short of becoming the first Black major party White House nominee. Ultimately, he never held elective office.

Jackson founded the Chicago-based civil rights groups Operation PUSH and the National Rainbow Coalition and served as Democratic President Bill Clinton's special envoy to Africa in the 1990s. Jackson pursued his political ambitions in the 1980s, relying on his mesmerising oratory. It was not until fellow Chicagoan Barack Obama's election as president in 2008 that a Black candidate came as close to securing a major party presidential nomination as Jackson.

Jackson became a lieutenant to civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr and sometimes travelled with him. On the day King was assassinated by a white man named James Earl Ray on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Jackson was just a floor below.

Jackson was known for personal diplomacy. After he secured the 1984 release by Syria of US naval aviator Robert Goodman Jr., President Ronald Reagan invited Jackson to the White House and expressed gratitude for the "mission of mercy." Jackson met in 1990 with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to gain the release of hundreds of Americans and others after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He won the 1984 release of dozens of Cuban and American prisoners from Cuban jails.

He hosted a weekly show on CNN from 1992 to 2000, pressed corporations for Black economic empowerment, and received the highest US civilian honour, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2000. Jackson continued his activism later in life, condemning the killing of George Floyd and other Black Americans in 2020. REUTERS

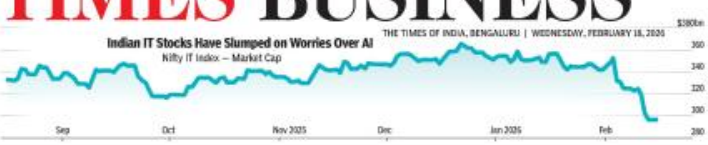
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

AI Scare's $56Bn Hit Tests Resilience Of IT Stocks

For investors bullish on India's technology services industry, the 'AI scare trade' has created an opportunity to buy shares of companies that are able to survive the doomsday predictions

Analysts at HSBC and JPMorgan Chase say worries may be overdone, as Indian IT firms stand to gain from more customers requiring help integrating artificial intelligence into their operations



- The NSE Nifty IT Index has slumped 15% since Anthropic's announcement earlier this month, on track for its worst month since March 2020
- The Nifty IT gauge is trading at 20 times forward earnings estimates, the lowest level since April 2023

Carlsberg weighs listing of India biz: Group CEO

New Delhi: Danish brewing giant Carlsberg is considering listing its India business, as it looks to unlock shareholder value in the country where it is witnessing strong growth, said its group CEO Jacob Aarup-Andersen. However, he declined to divulge further details saying "... what I can say is that this exploration is driven by our aim to create shareholder value." The company operates in India with brands such as Tuborg, Carlsberg Elephant, among others. AGENCIES

Silver, gold decline 2% on global cues

New Delhi: Precious metal prices declined 2% in the national capital on Tuesday, with silver slipping to about Rs 2.5 lakh per kilogram and gold dropping to Rs 1.6 lakh per 10 grams due to subdued demand amid weak global cues. According to the All India Sarafa Association, price of white metal decreased Rs 5,000. AGENCIES

Ask gets Sebi nod to start mutual fund biz

New Delhi: Ask Asset & Wealth Management Group, a player in the investment and wealth management space, has received regulatory approval from Sebi to commence operations as an investment manager for the mutual fund business. Ask Mutual Fund will offer investment solutions across a host of categories. AGENCIES

Hershey's V-P Canada to be Dabur's India CEO

New Delhi: Dabur announced the appointment of Herjit S Bhalla as chief executive officer of its India business effective April 15. The company also redesignated its CEO Mohit Malhotra as global chief executive officer from Feb 17, it said in a regulatory filing. Bhalla is currently serving as V-P Canada at The Hershey Co. TNN

CleanMax to float ₹3.1k cr IPO on Feb 23

New Delhi: CleanMax Enviro Energy Solutions, a commercial and industrial (C&I) renewable energy provider, on Tuesday said its Rs 3,186 crore IPO will open for subscription on Feb 23. The company has fixed a price band of Rs 1,666-1,053 per share, valuing it at Rs 12,325 crore at the upper end. AGENCIES

Boost for realty, infra firms as RBI overhauls ECB norms

Expands Pool Of Eligible Borrowers, Clarifies Uses Under Fema

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Real estate, infrastructure and corporate sectors are set to gain wider access to overseas funding with RBI overhauling external commercial borrowing (ECB) rules, sharply expanding the pool of eligible borrowers and clarifying permissible uses under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 framework.

The amended regulations shift the ECB regime from a restricted, sector-based eligibility model to a broad entity-based approach. Any non-individual resident entity incorporated under a central or state law can now raise overseas loans, subject to applicable statutory permissions. The wider eligibility is expected to ease funding constraints for statutory bodies, LLPs, development authorities and companies undergoing restructuring or insolvency resolution. While individuals are allowed to borrow from non-resident Indians or overseas citizens of India, the lenders have to convert money into rupees first and the money has to be repaid into their non-resident accounts.

A key boost comes for construction and development activity, where ECB funding has now been explicitly permitted with operational safeguards. Overseas borrowings can be used for township development, residential and commercial construction, integrated projects and city-level infrastructure, as well as hotels, hospitals and educational institutions. However, developers must complete trunk infrastructure such as roads, water supply and drainage before selling plots, signalling a shift toward financing structured development rather than speculative real-estate activity.

Industrial infrastructure is also set to benefit. The framework formally enables ECB funding for industrial parks subject to defined conditions, including a minimum number of units, caps on space concentration and a mandated share of industrial activity. The move is expected to support manufacturing-linked infrastructure and industrial cluster development.

Selective segments of the agriculture ecosystem have also been opened for overseas borrowing. Controlled-environment cultivation, seed production, animal husbandry, aquaculture and agro-related services are now expressly permitted uses, potentially expanding capital access for high-value and technology-driven agri activities.

Separately, resident individuals can now borrow in rupees from non-resident Indians or OCI relatives on a non-repatriation basis, creating an additional borrowing channel for new Delhi where top global tech leaders including Google's Sundar Pichai, OpenAI's Sam Altman and Anthropic's Dario Amodei will be in attendance. "At Adani, we are building on our foundation in data centres and green energy to expand into the complete five-layer AI stack focused on India's technological sovereignty. India will not be a mere consumer in the AI age. We will be the creators, builders and the exporters of intelligence," said Gautam Adani, chairman, Adani Group.

Adani Enterprises said that it will also invest another $55 billion to expand its renewable energy portfolio, including one of world's largest battery energy storage systems.

FOCUS ON ENTITY-BASED APPROACH

- Amended regulations shift ECB regime from restricted, sector-based eligibility model to a broad entity-based approach
- Real estate, infrastructure and corporate sectors to gain wider access to overseas funding
- Wider eligibility expected to ease funding constraints for statutory bodies, LLPs, development authorities and companies which are undergoing restructuring or insolvency resolution
- Framework enables ECB funding for industrial parks subject to defined conditions, including a minimum number of units, caps on space concentration and a mandated share of industrial activity
- Resident individuals can borrow in rupees from NRI or OCI relatives on a non-repatriation basis, creating an additional borrowing channel

Adani bets big on AI data centres, to invest $100bn

To Catalyse Additional $150Bn Investment On Allied Sectors | AI Infra To Be Ready By 2035

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Adani Group will invest $100 billion to build renewable energy-powered AI-ready data centres by 2035 as the ports-to-power conglomerate seeks to cash in on India's attempt to pitch itself as the hub of AI infrastructure. The investment is expected to "catalyse" an additional $150 billion investment across server manufacturing, advanced electrical infrastructure and related sectors, potentially fuelling a $250 billion AI infrastructure ecosystem in India over the decade, flagship Adani Enterprises said in a statement on Tuesday.

From Google to Amazon and Reliance Industries, deep-pocketed business giants from across the world have pledged several billion dollars of investments to set up data centres in India, fueled by rapid adoption of AI by enterprises, lower costs of building data centres compared to other places and data localisation norms mandated by the govt. The recent investment will build on Adani ConneX's existing 3GW national data centre which is expanding towards a 5GW target, helped by partnerships with tech majors Google and Microsoft, the company said.

In Oct last year, Adani Enterprises through its joint venture company Adani ConneX announced a partnership with Google, which is spending $15 billion to build India's largest AI data centre hub and energy infrastructure in Visakhapatnam.

With Microsoft, it is setting up campuses across Hyderabad and Pune, the statement indicated without sharing additional details.

The Adani Group is also in discussions with other major players looking to build large-scale data centre campuses across India, it said, adding that the company will also partner with Walmart's Flipkart to develop a second AI data centre to support Flipkart's AI workloads and next-generation digital commerce.

The announcement coincides with the inaugural AI Impact summit being hosted

Indian Cos Step Up As Big-Tech AI-ms For India

- **Amazon** | To invest $35bn more by 2030 in AI-led digitisation
- **Microsoft** | $17.5bn by 2029, expanding on its earlier $3 bn AI-cloud investment pledge
- **Google** | $15bn by 2030 for a Vizag-based AI hub
- **AI home:**
  - **TCS** | To invest up to $2bn in total in partnership with TPG to build GW-scale AI infrastructure
  - **Reliance Industries** | To invest $11bn over five years for 1 GW AI data capacity in Vizag

Eternal partners with OpenAI for AI boost to biz

Mumbai: Eternal is partnering with OpenAI to boost AI capabilities across the firm's businesses including its AI-native venture Nugget. The collaboration will focus on AI deployments across Eternal's apps, partner platforms and internal systems. Eternal will also work with OpenAI's Enterprise API platform to explore new ways customers and partners interact with its platforms, the companies said in a joint statement. TNN

24-hr trades, hedging tools: RBI to rejig forex mkt rules

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Increased opportunities to hedge foreign exchange risk and longer trading hours are at the heart of a proposed overhaul by RBI to liberalise access to currency markets.

The draft framework broadens the different types of derivatives that banks (authorised dealers) may offer to individuals and firms, extending hedging tools for currency and interest-rate exposures. Trades could be executed across over-the-counter markets, domestic exchanges, platforms in international financial centres and approved offshore electronic venues, drawing Indian participants more firmly into global liquidity pools.

The reforms also relax timings keeping in mind the 24-hour nature of forex markets. Banks would be free to transact with clients and counterparties beyond domestic market hours, allowing exposures to be managed across time zones and prices to adjust more continuously. Greater latitude to deal with overseas branches, subsidiaries and offshore banking units will enable further integration of onshore and offshore markets. The rules permit non-deliverable derivatives linked to the rupee with offshore counterparties in under safeguards, and allow banks involved in gold-related activities to hedge price risk abroad.

The central bank also proposes to put idle foreign currency balances to work. With board approval, banks can place surplus funds overnight, lend them short term against foreign government securities, or invest in short-dated overseas government paper and money-market instruments. They may also extend loans in rupees or foreign currency at home or abroad.

Unused FCNR(B) deposits can be invested in longer-dated foreign sovereign bonds, provided maturities do not outlast the underlying deposits. Dealers said that the revised norms will help deepen foreign exchange markets and bring them in line with developed economies.

Gift City's 1st IPO to open early March

Mumbai: A $12 million raise for XED Executive Development, an executive education company, is set to be the first IPO from Gift City. The offer, expected for an early-March opening, is set to be listed on NSE and BSE's international exchanges in Gift City, a release from the company said.

XED has obtained the requisite nod from the two exchanges in Gift City — NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) and India International Exchange (India INX)—and has filed its red herring prospectus for the offer with the Registrar of Companies (ROC), the release said. This dollar-denominated listing targets overseas investors, including NRIs, FPIs among others. TNN

Gold import volume dips 18% down, silver up 56%

New Delhi: Despite the surge in gold and silver imports upsetting the trade balance, the trends for the two precious metals are very different.

With the average price of gold rising nearly 25% on a year-on-year basis to $94,354 a kg during April-Dec, buyers became cautious, resulting in demand falling. Data released by the commerce department showed gold import volume dipped 18.3% to 422 tonnes during the nine-month period. But higher unit value meant that the value of imports was 1.8% higher at $49.4 billion.

In contrast, despite silver price (unit value) soaring 48.7% to $1,337 a kg, imports shot up 66% to 5,727 tonnes. As a result, silver imports more than doubled during April-Dec to $7.8 billion, compared with $5.4 billion during the nine-month period in 2024. A part of the reason is the industrial use for silver, whereas gold is seen more as an investment instrument. In Jan, gold imports soared 4.5 times to $12 billion, while silver more than doubled to $2 billion. In a report HDFC Bank said that 86% of imports growth in Jan was driven by gold and another 10% by silver, resulting in a widening of trade deficit. TNN

Power Grid JV bags $311mn Kenya project

Nairobi: Kenya has selected a joint venture of Power Grid Corp of India (PGCIL) and Africa50 for a $311-million project to expand and modernise its transmission network and improve electricity supply in large parts of the East African nation. The PPP agreement is to design, construct, operate and maintain two key high-voltage transmission lines, with the aim of improving power supply across western and northern Kenya. TNN

Capital values outpace rental growth: Report

Mumbai: Even as property prices continued to rise at a faster pace — 2.2 % in the Dec quarter, rental demand declined by 2.4% quarter-on-quarter across India, indicating a market adjusting to yield compression rather than a broad-based slowdown, Magicbricks said in a report. Chennai emerged as the top market in terms of gross rental yields at 4.16%, followed by Ahmedabad at 3.98% and Hyderabad at 3.91%. Bengaluru and Kolkata reported similar yield levels at 3.88% each. "A key structural takeaway is the sustained outpacing of rental growth by capital value appreciation across cities, resulting in visible yield compression," analysts at the firm said. TNN

AI shift is 'root and branch surgery' for firms: Nilekani

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Calling the AI shift a "root and branch surgery" of how businesses

function, Infosys chairman **Nandan Nilekani** urged enterprises to rethink not just technology stacks but also how employees work, adapt, and create value in an AI-first world.

Speaking at the Infosys Analyst Day held in Bengaluru on Tuesday, Nilekani said the conversation around AI moved beyond experimentation to large-scale organisational change that directly affects the workforce.

"And operating model — how do we make this at scale? How do you get a firm with hundreds of employees to change all the things and put it to work?" he said, describing the transition as both a technological and human challenge. For decades, enterprise technology operated within a predictable framework. "Technology is always deterministic. You said A plus B equals C," Nilekani explained. AI, however, introduces a different paradigm. "Every time you give a prompt, you'll probably get a different answer. How do you deal with this non-deterministic world while ensuring robustness and reliability?" This unpredictability is pushing companies to reshape employee roles rather than simply automate tasks. Workers must collaborate with intelligent systems, validate outputs, and apply judgement, elevating skills such as critical thinking, prompt design, oversight, and ethical decision-making. Mental models built over decades must evolve as organisations design processes that combine human supervision with machine intelligence. He described the transition as "a fundamental root-and-branch surgery of the way business is done," underscoring why this technology wave differs from earlier ones. A major barrier to this transformation, he noted, lies beneath many large enterprises: deeply entrenched legacy systems. "One clear learning we have is that modernisation of legacy systems cannot be deferred any more," Nilekani said.

Over decades, companies layered new technology onto ageing foundations rather than replacing them. The result is fragmented infrastructure that complicates AI deployment. "If you look under the hood of a large-enterprise, they will have mainframes from 1960 and minicomputers from 1980," he said, illustrating the technological complexity employees must navigate daily. He also flagged a widening "deployment gap": while AI competition is intense, enterprise-wide adoption is not rising at the same pace, creating an opening for services firms to help organisations move from pilots to scaled implementation.

On productivity, Nilekani cautioned against overestimating gains from greenfield projects, arguing the real challenge lies in integrating with the vast installed base of enterprise systems. With "trillions of dollars" invested in existing technology, AI-generated code could create a new class of technical debt. Within 5 years, he warned, organisations may face more "AI legacy systems" than any prior form, requiring governance to avoid what he termed "false productivity."

CEO Salil Parekh said the company is accelerating its artificial intelligence services push, with AI-related work now touching 90% of Infosys' top 200 clients and contributing 5.5% of third-quarter revenue.

PM Modi calls AI a force multiplier for India's growth

▸ Continued from page 1

Modi further said, "While general-purpose AI tools have become widespread, enterprise-grade AI adoption is concentrated in specific sectors. Incumbent IT firms continue to play crucial roles in solving complex business problems."

Many saw the PM's remarks as nudging Indian software service players to develop new capabilities and work on products and platforms — something that many Indian IT companies are not known for despite sitting on large cash piles. Global tech giants are also facing challenges from AI native companies such as OpenAI and Anthropic.

Modi said India must not only be a technology consumer but a creator too, a foundational pillar of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' principle. "My vision is that India should be among the top three AI superpowers globally, not just in consumption of AI but in creation. Our AI models will be deployed worldwide, serving

billions in their native languages. Our AI startups will be valued in hundreds of billions, creating millions of high-quality jobs," the PM said. To strengthen the country's AI compute infrastructure, India is expected to add another 20,000 graphic processing units, taking the total past 38,000 GPUs.

The PM also sought to address concerns over the impact of AI on jobs, vowing to arm the youth with requisite skills. "I understand the concern of our youth about AI-driven disruptions in the job market. Preparation is the best antidote to fear. That is why we have been investing in skilling and re-skilling our people for an AI-driven future... We're not approaching this as a future problem but we're treating it as a present imperative," he said.

He said that AI can be a force multiplier and help professionals, including teachers, doctors and lawyers, reach out to larger groups. "History has shown that work does not disappear due to technology. Its nature changes and new types of jobs are created. While some jobs may be redefined, digital transformation will also add new tech jobs to India's economy," Modi said.

Sovereign models hold the key to India's AI scale: Nvidia's Dhupar

New Delhi: India's real potential lies in building tailor-made models to solve problems at scale rather than merely hosting large data centres, said Vishal Dhupar, MD, South Asia, Nvidia.

Addressing a virtual interaction, Dhupar said, "The real magic happens in the sovereign models, with developers taking advantage of specific needs and use-cases and building thousands of distilled models for solving problems at scale."

> The real magic happens in the sovereign models, with developers taking advantage of specific needs and use cases and building thousands of distilled models for solving problems at scale
> **Vishal Dhupar** | MD, South Asia, Nvidia

He was responding to a question on the govt's move to allow tax breaks for cloud service providers and boost data centre adoption in India. Dhupar added that more Indian players are augmenting cloud capabilities with the Blackwell family of chips, while also deploying other processors.

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang, one of the biggest draws at the five-day India AI Impact Summit, was unable to travel to India for the govt-sponsored event. The company said on Saturday that the decision was due to "unforeseen circumstances". TNN

Maruti rolls out e-Vitara at under ₹11L

New Delhi: India's electric vehicle market is set for intense competition with Maruti Suzuki launching the all-new e-Vitara at a starting price of Rs 10.99 lakh, with a Rs 3.99 per km Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) ownership plan, marking the company's formal entry into the EV segment.

Under the BaaS model, the battery cost is separated from the vehicle price, reducing the upfront acquisition costs as customers can pay based on how much they drive.

The ex-showroom price will translate into an on-road price of around Rs 13 lakh in Delhi, depending on insurance. Maruti has not yet disclosed prices for non-BaaS options or other variants, saying details will be announced in coming days. Bookings are expected to start in next few days.

"We are not just launching a product but launching an overall ecosystem," said Partho Banerjee, senior executive officer (marketing and sales), Maruti Suzuki India. He said the company is focused on addressing customer concerns around driving range, charging infrastructure and after-sales support.

Banerjee said Maruti offers charging facilities across Nexa network and workshops nationwide, with 1.5 lakh technicians trained for EV servicing and mobile service vans equipped with charging support for roadside assistance.

"Maruti Suzuki's aggressive ICE pricing plus usage-linked battery EMI reflects its trademark strategy of disrupting segments even when entering late...however, the real test will be whether Indian consumers continue to prioritise economics and reliability or shift towards the futuristic designs and feature-loaded offerings from local competitors," said Gaurav Vangani, associate director at S&P Global Mobility. TNN

FUELLING COMPETITION

	Entry-level price in ₹ Lakh	Claimed Range (Max in km)
Maruti Suzuki e-Vitara	10.99	543
MG Windsor EV	13.9	449
VinFast VF6	17.2	468
Tata Curvv EV	17.4	585
MG ZS EV	17.9	461
Hyundai Creta Electric	18	510
Mahindra BE 6	18.9	683

Ex-showroom price for entry-level model. Source: Companies

WHERE AI COULD TAKE US

We asked some of those who are building AI solutions in core areas what they think AI would enable them to do in the coming years, and how it could benefit humanity

Helping engineers detect edge-case safety issues

Teja Gudesa | EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT - ENGINEERING, NETRADYNE, A STARTUP THAT IMPROVES COMMERCIAL FLEET SAFETY USING AI & COMPUTER VISION

Vision-based AI is already elevating road and driver safety, and over the next 2-5 years, I see it moving from passive monitoring to an active safety partner that helps fleets prevent incidents. Instead of just recording events, AI will increasingly predict risk by analysing real-time driver behaviour, vehicle health, and environmental data, and then intervene before an accident occurs. I hope that this shift drives a drastic reduction in preventable accidents by acting as an always-on coach that doesn't just flag errors but also actively predicts behaviours of road users and advances safety for all.

To achieve this, I expect AI to help engineers detect edge-case safety issues using large-scale simulation data, analyse millions of miles of driving logs for anomalies, and recommend design improvements based on pattern recognition. AI can also help explain why a model might fail under certain road conditions, automatically generate test scenarios based on identified weaknesses, and act as an engineering "second brain" for functional safety reviews.

To truly revolutionise fleet safety and management, we need AI to automate the heavy lifting of data interpretation. Semantic Video Search should handle complex, natural language queries like "Show me all instances of distracted driving near school zones in rainy conditions," and instantly retrieve relevant footage. This frees the edge without manual sifting.

Predictive Risk Modeling should also take over the continuous monitoring of risky behaviours and identify near-miss clusters and high-risk behaviours that haven't resulted in accidents yet, allowing fleets to proactively alter routes or training.

Automated Coaching should provide the routine nudge with real-time, positive reinforcement that scales better than human intervention ever could. When multiple risks appear simultaneously, for example, heavy traffic combined with poor weather, then AI should always prioritise threats, give meaningful warnings, and reduce alert fatigue by filtering noise.

Build for the messy, unpredictable, high-stakes physical world

Looking further ahead, I anticipate AI to possess intent reasoning. It's not enough to detect a pedestrian, the system must also predict if that pedestrian is about to step into traffic based on subtle cues. I envision persistent world models at the edge, where a single pass through an intersection updates a dynamic map of risk, traffic patterns, and infrastructure health, serving multiple business goals simultaneously without needing new sensors. For AI startups, the challenge is clear: Don't just build for the data centre. Build for the messy, unpredictable, high-stakes physical world. That is where the next generation of value and safety will be created.

AI will become core public health infrastructure

Prashant Warier | FOUNDER & CEO, QURE.AI, A HEALTHTECH COMPANY

Over the next 2-5 years, AI will transition from being a diagnostic support tool to becoming core public health infrastructure, particularly in disease surveillance, early detection, and delivering healthcare for the masses. In high-burden, resource-constrained settings like India and other low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), AI must function as an embedded, intelligent layer within national health systems rather than a standalone technology.

We see this evolution through two complementary tracks. First, AI-powered screening tools like qXR are enabling structured, population-scale early detection of tuberculosis and other lung conditions. qXR can autonomously interpret chest X-rays, prioritise high-risk cases, and standardise reporting across thousands of screening sites. Second, with our AI co-pilot for frontline health workers in LMICs, we are extending AI beyond imaging into primary healthcare delivery. It supports digitised symptom collection, clinical protocol adherence, and real-time decision support. The solution frees up time for patient interaction while simultaneously strengthening data-driven public health planning.

The tasks we most want AI to handle are high-volume and repetitive processes including image interpretation, triaging and symptom documentation. When embedded into routine programmes, these capabilities create continuous surveillance systems that flag risk earlier and provide policymakers with actionable intelligence at district and national levels.

Scalable systems that serve entire populations

Looking ahead, we want AI systems that are predictive and accountable. The future lies in combining screening intelligence with AI-embedded tools. By embedding early detection and intelligent decision support into routine workflows – from rural primary health centres to national disease programmes – AI can help build scalable systems that serve entire populations responsibly.

Becoming reliable executors of complex tasks

Rishabh Srivastava | CO-FOUNDER, FACTIQ, A VECTORIZER-BACKED COMPANY THAT MAKES DATA ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSTS

AI systems will change from being "copilots" that require human steering to being reliable executors of complex tasks. Right now, AI is impressive but (outside of coding) brittle. It demos well and answers questions. But in serious workflows, reliability, correctness, and integration matter much more. I expect AI models to address this, and become better at general computer use, problem solving in novel and unstructured domains, and learning on the job.

In my work, I expect AI to:

- Become a dependable system that can execute multi-step workflows autonomously
- Operate directly on structured business data
- Actually do work and deliver outcomes rather than just generating suggestions

I would like AI to handle three things:

1 Context stitching: Knowledge is fragmented across multiple domains, internal tools, and websites. AI should synthesise across all of it and surface coherent insights. For example – AI should be able to help a district magistrate in rural India in determining the root cause of a malaria outbreak, via a combination of reports from clinics, satellite imagery, and sensors.

2 Repetitive cognitive work: Data cleaning, exploratory analysis, internal reporting, updates, documentation, compliance checks. This is all work that currently requires repetitive cognition from humans, but not creativity.

3 Operational decision loops: Instead of just answering "what happened?", AI should proactively determine why it happened, what we should test next, and what will likely happen if we do X? For example, instead of just answering questions about trends in a diabetic patient's glucose levels, it should proactively look at all the potential reasons it could have happened (from looking at fitness trackers and food logs). It should then simulate effects (based on the users' past data) about potential interventions. And finally give the user a few recommendations based on their potential impact.

Less creative writer, more verifiable truth engine

I would like AI systems to have proven reliability on structured data. Hallucination is intolerable for many real world problems – especially in public policy, health, and finance. AI systems that can prove correctness, cite data lineage, and reason with constraints will go a long way towards improving human systems that have ossified for decades.

Additionally, I would like better and more reliable long-horizon autonomy. I would like AI to go beyond answering prompts. It should proactively set goals, breaking them into tasks, then perform those tasks and track progress over weeks.

I want an AI system that acts less like a creative writer and more like a verifiable truth engine that acts on the insights it uncovers.

AI WILL BECOME PART OF OUR OPERATING LAYER

Anand Chandra | CO-FOUNDER, ARYNA, A GRAIN COMMERCE PLATFORM

Over the next 2-5 years, AI will become part of the operating layer of our work rather then a standalone initiative. In agriculture, volatility is often driven by fragmented information and timing gaps across storage, finance and markets. We expect AI to strengthen how decisions are made within that system. If price signals, storage costs, repayment patterns and local demand movements can be analysed continuously, decisions around selling, holding inventory or extending credit become more informed. The outcome we are working towards is lower uncertainty and greater income stability across the value chain.

In practical terms, AI will sit beneath processes we already run. We conduct structured quality checks and collateral assessments across a distributed storage network. AI can help make these processes more consistent across geographies and generate clearer digital audit trails. In lending, underwriting models can incorporate commodity behaviour, repayment history and storage cycles so that risk is calibrated dynamically rather than assessed through static documentation alone. This is particularly relevant as more first-time borrowers enter formal credit systems.

The tasks we most want AI to handle are those where scale creates operational strain. Monitoring thousands of storage points simultaneously. Detecting deviations in quality of storage conditions before they escalate. Underwriting high volumes of small-ticket, commodity-backed loans without slowing down decision cycles. Analysing district-level price data to indicate whether holding stock is economically rational after accounting for carrying costs. Matching supply with buyer specifications based on grade, quantity and location. These are data-intensive functions where pattern recognition adds measurable value.

A key concern, however, is the cost of accessing and using this AI-driven data. Clarity is needed on who bears the cost: farmers, government, or platform providers. Adoption will ultimately depend on affordability and measurable return on investment for farmers.

Must remain grounded in agricultural realities

Looking ahead, AI systems must remain grounded in agricultural realities. Crop harvest windows vary by region. Mandi volumes move with regional harvest patterns, and rural liquidity tightens or eases over the crop cycle. Models must incorporate these variables and communicate recommendations clearly. When a credit decision is taken or a risk is flagged, the reasoning should be visible and understandable. Adoption depends on trust. If AI can reduce risk at the farmgate, improve capital flow efficiency and strengthen formal participation without adding complexity, it will have made a meaningful contribution to the agricultural ecosystem.

Fundamentally reshaping Earth observation

Awais Ahmed | FOUNDER & CEO, PIXEL, A SPACE DATA COMPANY

Over the next 2-5 years, AI will fundamentally shape how Earth observation moves from collecting images to building planetary intelligence. At Pixel, we operate at a planetary scale, capturing large volumes of high-resolution satellite data across space and time. The real challenge, and opportunity, is not access to imagery, but making sense of it quickly, consistently, and in ways that drive real-world decisions.

Working with Earth observation at a planetary scale requires systems that can recognise patterns, change, and signal across vast amounts of data. AI makes that possible. It allows us to move beyond static images and start understanding how the planet is changing; subtly, continuously, and often before those changes are visible on the ground. This matters across use cases: spotting early signs of crop stress, identifying small methane leaks, tracking changes in water quality, or monitoring environmental degradation as it happens rather than after the fact.

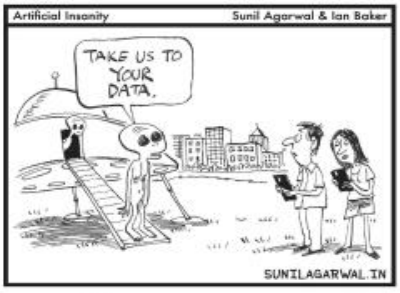
In the near term, AI's role in our work is about scale and speed. Earth observation generates petabytes of complex data, spanning multiple wavelengths and time periods. AI enables continuous analysis of this data, surfacing signals and trends that would otherwise remain buried. Tasks such as change detection, anomaly identification, and classification can increasingly be automated, reducing the time between data capture and insight. Just as importantly, AI enables combining different data types, such as hyperspectral, multispectral, SAR, and others, into a more complete view of what is happening on the ground.

The tasks we most want AI to handle are those that benefit from repetition and long-term pattern recognition. Monitoring large geographies over time, detecting subtle deviations from normal behaviour, and flagging areas that warrant deeper investigation are all areas where AI can operate at a much larger scale. This allows experts to focus on what matters most: interpretation, context, and decision-making.

Building the foundation of planetary intelligence

Looking ahead, one of the most exciting possibilities is for intelligence to move closer to where data is generated. As onboard compute becomes more capable, satellites will be able to analyse imagery in orbit and downlink insights rather than raw data. This could significantly reduce latency and bandwidth constraints, enabling faster responses to time-sensitive events such as environmental incidents, infrastructure failures, or natural disasters.

Ultimately, what we hope AI will enable is a shift from episodic observation to continuous understanding of the planet. AI is what will turn Earth observation from a record of the past into a system that can help us anticipate change.



AI FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

ACCELERATING JUSTICE

On his first day inside a courtroom, Arghya Bhattacharya was struck not by the gravity of law but by the weight of paper.

"There were towers and towers of paper everywhere. You could walk into record rooms and smell the rotten paper. Outside, people were still using typewriters – not even keyboards. Inside the courts, more work was happening on paper than on computers," he said at a recent event hosted by the EkStep Foundation.

In 2023, together with Utkarsh Saxena, who was Supreme Court law clerk, Arghya founded Adalat AI to build a tech stack to reduce delays, streamline workflows, and improve access. A major bottleneck in courts is the shortage of stenographers. "Nearly every word needs to be written down... judges are often writing everything by hand, which slows proceedings and creates room for errors." Adalat AI's transcription engine understands jargon, Indian accents, and 12 languages "so nothing gets lost in transcription." The company has also created a court workflow system where voice AI lets judges navigate files and dictate orders. Paperless filing systems reduce reliance on typing, while WhatsApp-based chatbots help citizens track cases without navigating complex government websites. Judges using the tech tell us they save significant time and can focus on core judicial work," Arghya says.

AGENTIC TUMOUR BOARD

When his aunt was diagnosed with breast cancer, Ashish Makani witnessed firsthand the anxiety patients and caregivers experience while navigating complex medical terminology, fragmented records, and difficult treatment decisions. The experience became a turning point, pushing him toward work at the intersection of technology, machine learning, and medicine.

Ashish Makani (extreme right), with Nandan Nilekani and EkStep co-founder Shankar Maruwada

The engineering graduate and now consultant with Ashoka University has developed an AI-powered tumour board aimed at addressing one of oncology's biggest structural challenges – limited access to multidisciplinary expertise. A tumour board is a group of cancer specialists – including medical, surgical, and radiation oncologists, radiologists, and pathologists – who meet to review complex cancer cases. But bringing together such specialists is always difficult. So, Ashish is building multiple specialised AI agents to simulate the collaborative reasoning of these experts. The system is designed to structure medical data, surface clinically relevant insights, and support more informed decision-making. It's built using subspecialty guidelines such as those from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network. The agents deliberate, challenge each other's conclusions, and synthesise recommendations – mirroring the dynamics of a real clinical discussion.

The platform is work-in-progress, but has already drawn interest from academic and clinical stakeholders, including researchers from Harvard Medical School.

HELPING ICU DOCTORS, NURSES

In govt hospitals, doctors and nurses in busy ICUs often struggle to balance patient care with growing documentation demands. Srikanth Radhamani's 16BedICU programme now uses AI across a range of processes to deal with such issues. The 16BedICU initiative, started in 2021, works to strengthen critical care capacity in public hospitals. To date, 216 16BedICUs have been established in 10 states. The state govt provides hospital space, medical staff, supplies, utilities, and signs an MoU to manage operating costs, wherein 16BedICU covers the capital expenditure by supplying ICU equipment, a software platform called CARE, teleICU technology, training, and community support.

The latest AI tools built into the CARE platform perform a variety of tasks. They allow doctors and nurses to simply speak in their local language while AI automatically records and structures patient information into electronic medical records. They support nurses who may not always have immediate access to specialists. Nurses can ask questions in local languages and receive responses based on validated standard ICU protocols built into the system, reducing dependence on generic online information and improving confidence in clinical decisions. They also automatically generate discharge summaries using existing patient data, saving hours of manual effort and ensuring smoother continuity of care.

– Shilpa Phadnis

CTRL+F(IND)

SEMANTIC VIDEO SEARCH

Semantic video search is an AI-powered technology that allows users to find specific moments within video files based on their contextual meaning and intent, rather than just matching literal keywords in titles or tags. By analysing the actual content of the video – including visuals, spoken dialogue, and even background sounds – it enables natural language queries such as "a person riding a bike in the rain" to pinpoint the exact timestamp, even if those words aren't in the metadata.

"THIS WORLD CUP HAS BEEN BRILLIANT WITH THE WAY SOME ASSOCIATE SIDES HAVE PLAYED. HOPEFULLY THAT WILL LEAD TO MORE TEST-PLAYING NATIONS PLAYING THE ASSOCIATE TEAMS OUTSIDE OF WORLD CUPS."
—Scott Edwards, NETHERLANDS CAPTAIN

The Batter, Yet To Score A Run In The World Cup, Will Be Looking To Make Amends As India Take On Netherlands In Last Group Match Ahead Of The Super 8 Stage

WAITING FOR ABHISHEK

Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: Fresh from a morale-boosting 61-run win over Pakistan in Colombo, India will hope Abhishek Sharma relisovers form ahead of the Super 8s when they face the Netherlands in their final World Cup league match at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Wednesday. The contest may not test the defending champions fully, but it offers a valuable opportunity to acclimatise to a venue where India will play their opening Super 8 fixture against South Africa on Feb 22, and potentially the final on March 8.

Despite the fixture's one-sided look on paper, a sizeable turnout is expected at the world's largest cricket stadium. "We are expecting more than 70,000 spectators. Around 70,000 turned up for the South Africa-New Zealand game here last week," Gujarat Cricket Association secretary Anil Patel told **TOI**.

With India already through to the next stage — where they will face South Africa (Feb 22, Ahmedabad), Zimbabwe (Feb 26, Chennai) and West Indies (March 1, Kolkata) — staying mentally sharp for what is effectively an inconsequential tie could be the bigger challenge.

The spotlight, meanwhile, is on Abhishek. The explosive left-hander arrived at his maiden T20 World Cup with considerable hype after 18 months of destructive opening batting, but has endured a barren run — dismissed for ducks in both matches he has played. In fact, the 25-year-old Punjab and Sunrisers Hyderabad batter has four ducks in his last six innings. He also missed the Namibia game in Delhi due to illness.

India's strong start from Ishan Kishan — the team's leading run-scorer with 158 runs at a strike rate of 197.50 — has masked Abhishek's lean patch. But against stronger opponents in the Super 8s, India would want their left-handed aggressor firing on all cylinders. Perhaps a slight recalibration is needed. Yet this is also the kind of game where Abhishek's high-risk, high-reward approach can flourish. Against Pakistan, he fell to Salman Ali Agha off the fourth ball; against USA, he perished first ball to Ali Khan.

The Netherlands clash presents an ideal chance for him to regain rhythm. India's middle-order, too, will look to fine-tune their approach against spin-on surfaces offering assistance. Team combination could be another talking point. With three Super 8 matches in nine days, India may consider resting pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah. If so, Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh could share new-ball duties.

On slower tracks, India opted for wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav ahead of Arshdeep in Colombo. Whether they stick with Kuldeep remains to be seen. The Netherlands began the tournament brightly, pushing Pakistan to the brink and defeating Namibia by seven wickets. But a 93-run thrashing by USA in Chennai has dented their momentum. To compete against a settled and well-rounded Indian side, the Dutch will need a significant uplift.

In their opening match of the T20 World Cup, South Africa made 213 for four against Canada here—the highest score in India so far in the tournament. If India's bevy of shot-makers get going, they total may be breached.

CHEAP DISMISSAL: Abhishek Sharma reacts after failing to open his account against Pakistan in Colombo

Vipin Chanda

AHEAD OF THE PACK: Arshdeep Singh and Tilak Varma train on Tuesday

11 T20 World Cup matches won by India in succession between June 5, 2024-Feb 15, 2026. The last 8 wins have come while defending totals.

43.42 Suryakumar Yadav's average while aggregating 668 runs in 26 innings at a strike rate of 154.7, the highest among all batters in T20 World Cup. In the all-time list, his average is the third highest behind Virat Kohli (58.72) and Kevin Pietersen (44.61).
—Madan Rajesh Kumar

TIME TO ASK APOLLO

'Everyone loves an underdog story'

Captain Raza Hails Side's Achievement As Zimbabwe Book First-Ever Super 8 Spot; Mighty Aussies Pay Price For Shambolic Build-Up

TIMES NEWS NETWORK & AGENCIES

Zimbabwe qualified for the Super 8 stage after persistent rain in Pallekele washed out their Group B game against Ireland on Tuesday. Zimbabwe became the seventh team to book a spot in the Super 8, ending the campaigns of Australia and Ireland. Interestingly, this is the first time since 2009 that Australia have failed to progress beyond the group stage in this showpiece event. In 2003, Zimbabwe stunned Australia but still failed to progress beyond the group stage.

Nineteen years on, that historic victory has ultimately proven decisive as they seized their passage to the Super 8 for the first time in a T20 World Cup. This qualification gives Zimbabwe automatic qualification for the 2028 T20 World Cup.

Zimbabwe captain Sikander Raza warned there were tougher battles to come. "This is only a tick in the box and this is not the only thing that we set out for. Everyone loves an underdog story."

Australia had a woeful run of luck leading to the World Cup, losing leading pace bowlers Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood to injury while captain Mitchell Marsh missed the first two games after being hit in the groin in training.

Getty Images

FUTILE: Groundstaff work on the covers in Kandy on Tuesday

THE SUPER 8 SCENARIO

Group A: India are through. Pakistan and USA are vying for the remaining spot. USA have played all their 4 group matches and are in 2nd spot behind India with 4 points. With 4 points, Pakistan (NRR -0.461) are third due to an inferior net run rate to USA (0.718). Pakistan face Namibia next and need a win.

Group B: Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe have qualified. With 2 defeats in 3 games and just 2 points, Australia have been eliminated, just like Ireland (3 points from 4 matches) and Oman (3 losses in 3 games).

Group C: West Indies and England have qualified. Scotland, Italy and Nepal are out.

Group D: New Zealand, who beat Canada on Tuesday, are through along with South Africa. Afghanistan, UAE and Canada are out.

Super 8 Group 1: India, West Indies, Zimbabwe, South Africa
Super 8 Group 2: TBD, England, Sri Lanka, New Zealand

India's Super 8 matches (all matches at 7 PM IST): **Feb 22:** vs South Africa (Ahmedabad), **Feb 26:** vs Zimbabwe (Chennai), **March 1:** vs West Indies (Kolkata)

Not overanalysing opener's form: Kotak

Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: India's path to the T20 World Cup 2026 semifinals became slightly clearer on Tuesday after Australia's shock group-stage exit.

Had Mitchell Marsh's side advanced, they would have joined India, South Africa and the West Indies in the same Super 8 group. Instead, Sikander Raza's Zimbabwe will now face India on Feb 26.

While Australia's early departure may ease the degree of difficulty India's camp insists it changes little. Speaking ahead of Wednesday's final league match against the Netherlands, batting coach Sitanshu Kotak said the team remains focused on defending its title, regardless of opposition.

"Everyone was thinking that Australia would qualify and come into our group in the Super 8s. We knew about this possibility too. But when they lost to Zimbabwe, we realised Zimbabwe might end up in our group," Kotak told reporters. "We knew the match against Sri Lanka would be tough for Australia, looking at the conditions. I don't think we are bothered about what happened. Either we play Australia, or we play Zimbabwe. We will just try to do our best against whoever we play."

Kotak also threw his weight behind Abhishek Sharma, who has registered ducks in his last two appearances. The opener was unwell in the lead-up to the Pakistan game. "He wasn't well. In the last match he got out in the first over. We don't overanalyse unnecessarily. He has his plans and knows how he wants to play," Kotak said. "T20 is such a format — you can lose your wicket. That's okay."

With India set to play their Super 8 clash against South Africa in Ahmedabad, Kotak underlined the importance of adapting to conditions. "It would be good to get used to the conditions here. Looking at the wicket, we may tweak the playing XI. But the intensity will remain the same," he said, adding that premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah is unlikely to be rested for the Netherlands game. "We'll decide later, but I don't think Bumrah will rest."

Kotak reserved special praise for Ishan Kishan, whose half-century set up India's win over Pakistan. "We know how capable Kishan is. He's very confident and natural."

FACE-OFF

IND vs NED
TV TIME 7 PM
STAR SPORTS / JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD

IND	NED
1	0

LAST FIVE MATCHES

IND	W	W	W	W	W
NED	L	W	L	NR	L

VENUE: AHMEDABAD

WEATHER 26°C

ODDS

IND	NED
1/100	100/1

Nepal overcome Scotland, give fans something to smile about

Rajesh.Pansare@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: With both Nepal and Scotland already out of the T20 World Cup, Tuesday night's contest at the Wankhede was more about playing for pride.

In the end, in a match that swayed from one team to another and went to the last over, Nepal held their nerve to overhaul the target of 171 with seven wickets and four balls to spare to sign off with their first win of the tournament.

After the win, Nepal players went on a lap of honour to oblige the fans who have filled the stands in all four matches they played in Mumbai, irrespective of the results.

Nepal's win was built on a 55-ball, 74-run association for the opening wicket between Kushal Bhurtel (43: 33b; 1x4, 4x6) and Aasif Sheikh (33; 27b; 2x6) before Dipendra Singh Airee (59*; 23b; 4x4, 3x6) and Gulshan Jha's (24*; 17b; 1x4, 2x6) unbeaten 36-ball, 73-run stand for the third wicket took them over the line.

Openers Bhurtel and Sheikh mixed caution with aggression, an approach that made sense as Nepal had failed to stitch opening stands against Italy and the West Indies previously.

Against Scotland, the pair started to flex their muscles and took 23 runs off the fifth over, bowled by Mark Watt, to put Nepal on their way.

Scotland, led by off-spinner Michael Leask (3/26) and left-arm spinner Oliver Davidson (0/31), pulled themselves back into the contest with Leask accounting for Bhurtel, Sheikh and skipper Rohit Paudel (16, 14b; 1x4) in each of his first three overs as Nepal scored just 63 runs between overs 6-15.

By the 15th over, Nepal were 112/3 and needed 59 off the last five overs. But Airee scored 19 of the 20 conceded by Leask in his last over to settle the nerves.

SCORES: Nepal 171/3 in 19.2 overs (D Airee 58*, K Bhurtel 43; M Leask 3/30) beat **Scotland 170/7** (M Jones 71; S Karri 3/25).

IMPACTFUL: Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee plays a shot during the match against Scotland in Mumbai on Tuesday

'New Yuvraj' makes his mark

Canada Teenager Named After Former India Batting Star Becomes Youngest-Ever Centurion in T20 WC; Kiwis Still Advance To Super 8s

M.Sudharshan@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Chepauk saw the birth of a new star in 19-year-old Yuvraj Singh Samra on Tuesday. The teenager, named after former India star Yuvraj Singh, smashed a 65-ball 110 but it was not enough to stop New Zealand from winning by eight wickets and make the Super 8s.

Left-hander Samra (110 off 65b; 11x4, 6x6) became the youngest to score a ton in the T20 World Cup and helped Canada post a competitive 173/4. However, New Zealand, led by stand-in skipper Daryl Mitchell chased down the target with 29 balls to spare. After slipping to 30-2, Glenn Phillips (76* off 36b; 2x4, 6x6) and Rachin Ravindra (59* off 38b; 4x4, 3x6) stitched an unbeaten 146-run stand for the third wicket to take the Kiwis home.

The in-form Phillips wasted little time in asserting himself, unleashing a range of strokes while Rachin played second fiddle. Rachin getting back to form will be a major relief for the Kiwis. The left-hander waited for the loose balls to be put away and finished the chase with a boundary.

The day, however, belonged to Samra, who held the innings together. He began cautiously before cutting loose in the final over of the Powerplay collecting 38 runs to lift Canada to 50 for no loss. Jimmy Neesham was at the receiving end as Samra struck three fours and a six. He then went after off-spinner Cole McConchie, who came in for unwell Mitchell Santner, launching two maximums to carry his side past the 100-run mark.

NZ finally found the breakthrough they needed. Pacer Kyle Jamieson ended the record 116-run opening stand, with captain's Dilpreet Bajwa's lofted drive poached at deep extra cover by Phillips. Samra showed no signs of slowing down and continued his assault, and the youngster received a reprieve on 89 when Matt Henry tipped the ball over the rope at long-off.

SCORES: New Zealand 176/2 in 15.1 overs (Phillips 76*, Ravindra 59*; Saad 1/29) beat **Canada 173/4** (Samra 110, Bajwa 36, Duffy 1-25) by eight wickets

"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS MOMENT, DAY AND NIGHT, EVERY DAY. I JUST WANT TO MAKE A NAME IN THIS WORLD CUP."
—Yuvraj Samra

'I can make a good living out of this sport'

Father's Love For Game Played Central Role In Samra's Journey

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: If Yuvraj Singh once lit up world cricket with his audacious strokeplay and big-match temperament, a teenager from Canada is now scripting a story under the weight and inspiration of the same name.

Named after the Indian great by a cricket-loving father, Yuvraj Singh Samra is beginning to shape an identity of his own.

Born in Brampton, Ontario, Samra's cricketing journey began far from the sport's traditional heartlands. Introduced to the game by his father, Baljit Singh, who emigrated to Canada from India, cricket was first a family ritual before it became a personal pursuit. As a child, he would tag with his father to local matches. His father, a devoted follower of the game, named him after India's iconic allrounder, perhaps hoping the name would carry its own quiet prophecy. Years later, that hope found its moment.

"I feel like this inning could change my life. I can actually make a good living out of this sport. I feel this day is a real dream come true for me," Samra said after his knock.

For someone raised in a country where cricket exists on the fringes, the achievement carried a deeper resonance. "Yes, I've always been thinking about this moment, day and night, every day. I just want to make a name in this World Cup and make a living out of this sport, especially being from Canada," he said, also hinting at his aspirations of playing in T20 leagues around the world.

His journey, however, has been anything but straightforward. Growing up in Canada presents unique challenges for a cricketer, where harsh winters severely restrict playing time. "In Canada, it's not that easy because we only get three months to play as there is like minus 20 or minus 30-degree weather. We try to come to countries like Sri Lanka, which have good weather, and practice here," Samra said. "But I feel we have a good management, they back us, they take us on pre-tournament tours."

At the heart of his journey stands his father, the man who first placed a bat in his hands and whose belief shaped his path. Even on the biggest day of his career so far, there was a hint of longing. "I feel like in my cricketing journey my dad plays the biggest role. I really wish he was here watching this game. For my rise in the sport, all the credit goes to my dad," he said.

If Brampton was where the dream began, Chennai was where it found an audience. The young Canadian, used to modest grounds and sparse crowds, found himself soaking in an atmosphere unlike anything he had experienced before. The standing ovation from nearly 16,000 spectators left a lasting impression. "The moment I stepped onto this ground, I was like, wow, playing at this type of venue is amazing. So, it's just a great feeling," he said.

YOUNGEST CENTURIONS IN T20 WORLD CUP

Age	Runs	Batter	For	Opp	Venue	Date
19y 141d	110	Yuvraj Samra	Can	NZ	Chennai	17-2-2026
22y 127d	111*	Ahmed Shehzad	Pak	B'desh	Mirpur	30-3-2014
23y 156d	101	Suresh Raina	Ind	SA	Gros Islet	2-5-2010
25y 83d	116*	Alex Hales	Eng	SL	Chattogram	27-3-2014
25y 327d	104	Glenn Phillips	NZ	SL	Sydney	29-10-2022

TOP BATTING STRIKE RATES IN T20 WC 2026

Team	M	Runs	SR	Ave	100	50	Sixes
New Zealand	4	687	165.94	49.07	0	5	32
South Africa	3	553	159.82	42.53	0	4	25
Sri Lanka	3	551	156.98	42.38	1	5	17
India	3	529	146.94	21.16	0	4	27
England	4	679	146.33	23.41	0	4	36

Smaran hopes team can end 'long wait'

Fazal Khan | TNN

Lucknow: Young left-handed batter R Smaran has managed to impress in a Karnataka side packed with stars like KL Rahul, Devdutt Padikkal, Karun Nayar and Mayank Agarwal. After his brilliant 135 against Uttarakhand, Smaran was asked what it felt like to be the top-scorer for the side. "I'm very happy that all of us have contributed. Like, he (Karun Nair who has gotten close to 700 runs, our captain Devdutt Padikkal or KL Rahul. I'm really happy with my batting as well. As you said, it's my first Ranji trophy semifinal and yes, I think it's right up there," he said.

So what has he picked up from the heavyweights in the Karnataka dressing room? "There's a lot of learning, a lot of inputs," he said. Karnataka are in a commanding position, so what it will mean to him and Karnataka cricket if they go on to win the Ranji Trophy? "It's everything right now because we've not won the trophy for 10 years. It's been a long wait. All our focus is on winning. It would mean the world for all of us," he said.

SNAP SHOTS

India 'A' in semis

Senior India national team bowlers Tanuja Kanwar and Minu Mani dished out a dominating display to guide India 'A' to a seven-wicket victory over Nepal and seal their semifinal spot in the Women's Asia Cup Rising Stars, in Bangkok on Tuesday. Left-arm spinner Tanuja ran through Nepal batters with 4/12, while Minnu wreaked havoc with 3/8, as the two spinners bundled Nepal out for 78 in 18 overs. India 'A', powered by an unbeaten 39 off 18 balls from Vrinda Dinesh, chased down the target in just 7.5 overs.

Brief scores: Nepal 78 all out in 18 overs (Minu Mani 3/8, Tanuja Kanwar 4-12, Radha Yadav 2-37) lost to **India 'A' 82/3 in 7.5 overs** (Vrinda 39 n.o.)

CA plans to host BBL game in Chennai: Cricket Australia (CA) is considering to host a Big Bash League (BBL) game in India next season in a bid to tap the lucrative market there, according to a report. The report said two senior CA officials have travelled to India recently to chalk out the possibility of a game, possibly in Chennai.

Pratika added to Indian squad: Having recuperated from an ankle injury, batter Pratika Rawal was on Tuesday added to India's women's cricket squad for a three-match ODI series against Australia beginning on Feb 24 in Brisbane. Rawal picked up the injury during the World Cup last year.

Sreejesh re-applies for Jr team coach: Former India goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, whose contract as India's junior men's hockey team chief coach ended on Dec 21, has re-applied for the position. Sreejesh was appointed as the chief coach of the junior men's team in Aug 2024 and he guided India to a bronze medal finish at the Junior World Cup in Chennai.

Tvesa, Ridhima share lead: Tvesa Malik and Ridhima Dilawari carded a matching three-under 68 to share the lead after day one of Leg-4 of the Women's Pro Golf Tour in Pune on Tuesday. Vani Kapoor (68) was one shot behind in sole third.

Sinner cruises: Jannik Sinner cruised to a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Tomas Machac in the opening round of the Qatar Open on Monday. The world number two set up a second-round meeting with Alexei Popyrin. Popyrin beat Qatari wild card Mubarak Shannan Zayid 6-0, 6-2.

Gauff, Rybakina enter last 16: Coco Gauff scored a comfortable victory over Anna Kalinskaya in Dubai on Tuesday, while Elena Rybakina opened her campaign with a dominant win. Gauff won 6-4, 6-4. Rybakina brushed past Kimberly Birrell 6-1, 6-2.

KARNATAKA TIGHTEN GRIP

Visitors Amass Imposing 736; Uttarakhand Limp To 149/5 On Day 3

Manaja Veerappa
@timesofindia.com

Lucknow: It would not be misplaced to call Vidyadhar Patil Karnataka's most improved cricketer this season. Disciplined with the ball, economical across formats and reliable under pressure, the 26-year-old quietly became a vital cog in the side.

On Tuesday at the Ekana Cricket Stadium here, he once again underlined his growth — first with a maiden first-class half century and then with a probing opening spell that pushed Uttarakhand further into a corner.

When stumps were drawn on Day 3 of their Ranji Trophy semifinal, Karnataka had all but sealed the tie. After making an imposing 736 — their third-highest total in the tournament's history — the eight-time champions reduced Uttarakhand to 149-5 in 46 overs. With two days remaining, the debutants face a mammoth deficit of 587 runs.

The morning began with Karnataka resuming their march towards a monumental total. R Smaran (135; 316b; 12x4) signalled the 700-run mark with a straight-driven boundary past bowler Abhay Negi. However, his stay thereafter was brief. Attempting to step out against left-arm spinner Mayank Mishra (3/133), the southpaw was beaten in flight and was stumped by Saurabh Rawat.

Vyshak Vijaykumar followed soon after, but Vidhyadhar (54; 141b; 2x4, 1x6) ensured the lower order added some more runs. Displaying admirable composure, he brought up his half century with a fine glide through third man. His knock, built on patience, further compounded Uttarakhand's burden before Aditya Rawat and Mishra wrapped up the innings.

If Uttarakhand hoped for a steady start in reply, Karnataka's new-ball pair had other ideas. Prasidh Krishna maintained a disciplined length, while Vidhyadhar (2/26) attacked the stumps relentlessly on a surface which offered no assistance.

It was Vidhyadhar who struck first. A delivery that jagged back sharply trapped Prashant Chopra in front, setting the tone. Soon after, Bhugen Lalwani fell attempting to flick down the leg side, edging to wicket-keeper Kruthik Krishna. The twin blows unsettled Uttarakhand's dressing room, and the scoring rate soon dwindled. Avneesh Sudha and teenager Lakshya Raichandani attempted to stabilise the innings, but Vyshak broke through with late movement that disturbed Sudha's off stump. Skipper Kunal Chandela, Uttarakhand's leading runscorer this season, managed just 12 before edging a Shreyas Gopal delivery which bounced a tad late, to KL Rahul at first slip.

At 106/5, the innings teetered. Raichandani and J Sudhith mounted a brief resistance with their 43-run stand. Suchith, who had missed Day 2 due to the birth of his son, shuttled between push his side past the 106-run mark before Prasidh returned to uproot his off stump.

Raichandani and Saurabh Rawat saw through the rest of the final session with some help from the Karnataka fielders. The duo was grassed by Smaran and Rahul on 43 and 20 respectively. But they have mountains to move if they want to stop Karnataka from entering their first final after their victorious 2014-15 season.

ALL SMILES: Karnataka players celebrate the fall of a wicket on Tuesday. Right: Vidhyadhar Patil

RANJI TRAPHY

SCOREBOARD

Karnataka (I innings: six 600/9): R Smaran st A Rawat b Mishra 135, Vidhyadhar Patil c S Rawat b K Rawat 54, Vyshak Vijaykumar c Raichandani b Mishra 0, Shikhar Shetty b Mishra 12, Prasidh Krishna (not out) 1, **Extras** (NB-6, W-8, B-21, LB-6) over 51 **36. Total (all out) 594 overs: 736.**

Fall of wickets: 7-172, 8-172, 9-734.

Bowling: Abhay Negi 34-5-120-1, Jaiminejay Joshi 29-5-104-0, Aditya Rawat 34.4-3-154-4, Mayank Mishra 42-3-173-3, J Sudhith 10-0-43-0, Avneesh Sudha 35-2-100-1, Lakshya Raichandani 11-1-25-1.

Uttarakhand (I innings): Bhugen Lalwani c Kruthik b Patil 13, Prashant Chopra lbw Patil 5, Avneesh Sudha b Vyshak 27, Lakshya Raichandani (batting) 52, Kunal Chandela c Rahul b Shreyas 12, J Sudhith b Prasidh 21. **Extras:** (B-4, NB-1) 5. **Total (5 wkts: 69 overs) 149.**

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-17, 3-61, 4-68, 5-104.

Bowling: Vidhyadhar Patil 13-3-26-2, Prasidh Krishna 13-2-42-1, Vyshak Vijaykumar 15-2-30-1, Shikhar Shetty 10-3-24-0, Shreyas Gopal 18-3-23-1.

J&K eye maiden final after Bengal collapse

Archiman Bhaduri
@timesofindia.com

Kalyani: Jammu and Kashmir stand on the brink of history. And they have reason to believe in making their maiden Ranji Trophy final as Bengal dug their own grave on Day 3 of the semifinal match at the Bengal Cricket Academy (BCA) ground here on Tuesday. Bengal batters made a complete mess of the situation even after managing a 38-run first-innings lead by bowling out the visitors for 302 at the lunch break.

However, what followed was beyond the credible. In a blink-and-miss second session of play, Bengal were reduced to 77 for six in 26 overs at tea. The hosts lost their remaining four wickets in the next 6.1 overs in the last session for their lowest total against J&K in first-class cricket.

In a swift change of script, J&K came out to bat in their second essay needing just 126 runs for a spectacular victory. Pacer Akash Deep struck two prompt blows, removing openers Shubham Khajuria and Yawer Hassan in his consecutive overs, but an unbroken 31-run third-wicket stand between Vansh Sharma (9n.o) and Shubham Pundir (22n.o) helped J& K see through the day at 45 for two, just 83 runs away from their dream final. The day, however, began differently as Bengal's one-man bowling army Mohammed Shami continued to fire, picking up all the five remaining J&K wickets to finish with a career-best haul of eight for 90 in 22.1 overs. The former India pacer bowled 9.1 overs in all, spread over two spells on the third day morning handing over Bengal the vital lead.

The pacer claimed three wickets in his first spell of six overs for 23 runs and two wickets for just seven runs in his 3.1 overs in the second spell.

Then came the twist in the tale. J&K's star pacer Auqib Nabi began the demolition job from the very first over. Bengal opener Sudip Chatterjee had a 'pair' when he became Nabi's first victim in the fourth ball of their innings. Left-arm pacer Sunil Kumar provided the biggest jolt by having Bengal's in-form batter Sudip Gharami caught in front in the very next over. Nabi (4-36) and Kumar (4-27) shared the spoils while Yudhvir got 2-28.

Brief scores: Bengal 338 (S. Gharami 140, A. Nabi 3/87) & **99** (A. Nabi 4/36) vs **J&K 302** (M. Shami 8/90) & **43/2**.

ECSTATIC: Auqib Nabi

Pak face yet another must-win scenario

2009 Champs Need A Victory Vs Namibia To Qualify For Super Eights, Even A Washout Will Do

Dwaipayan Dutta
@timesofindia.com

As the afternoon flight to Chennai from Colombo was about to take off, there were a lot of Pakistan fans waiting in the queue. Two flights — one to Lahore and the other to Karachi — were scheduled around the same time, and you could overhear their conversations. It was mostly about Pakistan's chances and how good India are. When TOI asked a few of them what they felt about a rematch with India later in the tournament, a couple of them said, "Inshallah, ho jayega... We will come again if that happens."

That's the cautious optimism of the fans. But for that to happen again, Pakistan have to do a lot of things right, starting with winning their game against Namibia on Wednesday in Colombo. If they win, or if there is a wash-out, they go through to the Super Eights and take on a formidable line-up of New Zealand, Sri Lanka and England. But if they lose, they are out, and the USA, who already have a better net run rate than Pakistan, will go through along with India.

Despite the sense of gloom that engulfed the Pakistan contingent on Sunday after the loss to India, there was a silver lining. It was the performances of the two spinners, Usman Tariq and Saim Ayub, who bowl a little bit of everything. Left-arm spinner Mohammed Nawaz was also pretty decent, even though Shadab Khan and Abrar Ahmed were below par.

There's nothing in the Namibia side that should bother Pakistan. But then, given Pakistan's ability to self-destruct, you can't take anything for granted.

Tariq, who was Pakistan's best bowler against India, tried to be as positive as possible. "It becomes difficult when you don't pinpoint your mistakes and work on them. We just had a conversation about the areas where we had lapses. We'll work on those and look forward to the next matches so that we don't repeat the same mistakes," Tariq said on the eve of their game at the SSC.

It's a 3 pm match, the pitch is a slow-turner, and the best thing for Pakistan would be to bat first if they win the toss. In a pressure game, it will be important for them to have the runs on the board and pressurise the opposition with the spinners.

Even though the Pakistan batting is no great shakes, they should manage things against Namibia with some amount of application. The real worry though for the 2022 finalists is the form of their No1 pacer, Shaheen Afridi. He was immensely disappointing against India, and the Namibia game can be the right platform for Pakistan to try either Naseem Shah or Salman Mirza, if not both.

Tariq, though, defended Afridi, saying that the pacer isn't under "any special pressure". "We were just trying to execute our plans. Performances depend on the day. If the bowling unit missed their lines, we'll focus on those things and work to improve in the next match," Tariq said. It's absolutely mandatory that Tariq's colleagues do that on Wednesday and keep themselves alive in this World Cup.

Live, Star Sports, 3pm

CRUNCH GAME: Captain Salman Agha (right) with Saim Ayub

T20 WORLD CUP

Ngidi, Jansen shore up adaptable SA attack

Prasanth.Menon
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: South Africa's fast-bowling attack for the T20 World Cup may not have the aura of their illustrious predecessors but the duo of Lungi Ngidi and Marco Jansen are no less industrious and are proving to be quite a handful in the tournament. However, the Proteas seamers are not rattling the batters with raw pace like before. Instead, they are plotting the batters' downfall with deceptive changes in pace and length in the game's shortest format. The team plays UAE in their last group-stage match in Delhi on Wednesday, ahead of Sunday's big-ticket clash against South Africa.

With their premium pacer Kagiso Rabada looking unlikely low his best in the first three games, Ngidi and Jansen have risen to the occasion in the group stage. Of the 22 wickets South Africa have claimed in the three matches, the two have shared 15 between them, with Ngidi claiming eight and Jansen seven. More importantly, eight of those wickets claimed by the duo have come in the Powerplay which have denied their opponents at the start.

The duo have refrained from bowling too full and have banked on back-of-a-length and good-length deliveries in the initial overs to surprise the batters. More importantly, they have used the slower balls judiciously and varied their length to fetch results.

Having already assured of a Super 8 berth, South Africa's match against UAE here at the Arun Jaitley Stadium is an inconsequential one and they would be hoping that their pace spearhead returns to his best. South Africa might also rest one of the pacers and play Anrich Nortje against minnows UAE.

Live, Star Sports, 11am

GEARING UP: Kagiso Rabada

PREVIEW

Arsenal visit Mansfield, City at Newcastle

Arsenal will visit League One Mansfield Town, while Manchester City travel to Newcastle United in a mouth-watering all-Premier League tie following the FA Cup fifth round draw on Monday.

Third-tier Mansfield stunned top-flight struggers Burnley 2-1 at Turf Moor on Saturday and have been rewarded with a clash against 14-times winners and Premier League leaders Arsenal.

FA Cup Fifth round draw: Fulham vs Southampton, Port Vale or Bristol City vs Sunderland, Newcastle United vs Manchester City, Leeds United vs Norwich City, Mansfield Town vs Arsenal, Wolverhampton Wanderers vs Liverpool, Wrexham vs Chelsea, West Ham United vs Brentford. REUTERS

FA CUP

Sahaja leads Indian charge

Ashim.Sanam
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: For a large part of the first-round contest, Sahaja Yamalapalli's powerful groundstrokes dominated proceedings against South Korea's Dayeon Back at the ITF Women's Open here on Tuesday. Even an error-strewn second set from India's No. 1 did not stop her from securing a 6-2, 1-6, 6-2 victory in the W100 clash that lasted two hours and 18 minutes at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium.

Ranked 416 on the WTA Tour, the Indian entered the match with a 0-2 head-to-head record against Dayeon. The 25-year-old lost in the W35 event in Nagpur (March 2024) and at the Billie Jean King Cup in Pune (April 2025). However, she was in complete control from the outset in their third meeting.

Winners flowed from Sahaja's racquet, and her crisp volleys troubled Dayeon as she raced to a 4-1 lead. At one stage, Dayeon (ranked 306) stood with her hands on her hips, looking weary under the afternoon sun, and a straight-sets defeat seemed imminent. However, the momentum shifted dramatically in the second set. Dayeon surged to a 2-0 lead after Sahaja committed a double fault and missed a routine overhead smash. Unforced errors mounted as she struggled to put away even straightforward shots.

The only bright spot for Sahaja in the set was a well-executed drop shot, which earned her the lone game. She also struggled with her serves, getting broken three times as the match headed into a decider. "I had to move on after losing the set and try to do better. I wanted to regain the fresh mindset I had in the first set," she said after the match. "I tried to forget the mistakes and focus on the positives, hitting my strokes freely. I spoke to myself, which helped me get out of that phase and come back with a positive approach."

There was no looking back for Sahaja in the third set. With the scores locked 5-2, she raised her level, using her dominant forehand as a weapon. The Indian won the next four games to seal her maiden victory over Dayeon.

In the other match between two Indian wildcards, Vaishnavi Adkar (490) advanced to the round of 16 with a 6-1, 7-6(6) win over Shruti Ahlawat in one hour and 51 minutes.

Results: Sahaja Yamalapalli (I) bt Kim Dayeon Back (Kor) 6-2, 1-6, 6-2. Vaishnavi Adkar (I) bt Shruti Ahlawat (I) bt 6-1, 7-6(6). Ankita Raina (I) bt Nicole Fossa Huergo (Arg) 7-6 (2), 1-6 retired.

TAKE THAT: Vaishnavi Adkar in action against Shruti Ahlawat

TENNIS

'Rivalry ends when the stumps are drawn'

▶Continued From Page 1

"Cricket has long been a bridge between nations. Our shared history on the field reminds us that rivalry ends when the stumps are drawn — and respect endures. Imran Khan embodied that spirit throughout his career. We call on authorities to honour it now by upholding the principles of decency and justice," the statement said, adding that the appeal was made "in the spirit of sportsmanship and common humanity, without prejudice to any legal proceedings".

Reminding prime minister Shehbaz Sharif's govt of Khan's cricketing legacy, the captains noted, "Imran Khan's contributions to the game are universally admired. As captain, he led Pakistan to their historic 1992 cricket World Cup victory, a triumph built on skill, resilience, leadership and sportsmanship that inspired generations across borders."

Several signatories were ex-field rivals of Khan. "Many of us competed against him, shared the field with him or grew up idolising his all-round brilliance, charisma and competitive spirit. He remains one of the finest all-rounders and captains the sport has ever seen," the letter added. Notably, none of Pakistan's other former captains have signed the petition. However, last week, former Pakistan cricketers Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Shahid Afridi urged authorities via social media to ensure proper medical care for Khan.

IN FOCUS

Barca suffer blow

Spanish champions Barcelona fell to a damaging 3-1 defeat at Girona on Monday to leave them trailing Real Madrid by two points at the top of La Liga. Los Blancos beat Real Sociedad on Saturday to overtake the Catalans and Hansi Flick's side could not defend Girona in an gripping derby clash to reclaim the lead.

Teenage star Lamine Yamal missed a penalty for Barcelona, which took the lead through defender Pau Cubarsi just before the hour mark. However goals from Thomas Lemar and Fran Beltran helped Girona, 12th, mount an impressive comeback.

Both sides were attacking with abandon in the first half and it was unexceptionable they went in goalless at the break. Barcelona eventually took the lead through Pau Cubarsi's header from Jules Koundé's cross after 49 minutes, but Girona swiftly pulled level.

Thomas Lemar slipped away from Eric Garcia and turned home Vanat's pass from close range. Girona forced their way in front after 87 minutes, with Fran Beltran striking home from the edge of the area.

Results: Spanish La Liga: Girona 2 (Lemar 62, Beltran 87) bt Barcelona 1 (Cubarsi 59). **Italian Serie A:** Cagliari 0 lost to Lecce 2 (Gandelman 40, Ramadani 78). AGENCIES

ON TARGET: Fran Beltran

FOOTBALL

Our backs are against the wall: Hardik

Amab.Seal@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Even as the India men's hockey team put up a terrible performance in the just-concluded Pro League leg in Rourkela, one player who impressed one and all was senior midfielder **Hardik Singh**.

He has now been chosen to lead the side during the Hobart leg where the Indian team will play four matches — two each against Australia and Spain — after Harmanpreet Singh was not included in the squad owing to personal reasons. According to sources, Harmanpreet will be missing the games to welcome his second child with wife Amandeep Kaur.

For Hardik though, this will be a fresh challenge as the team hopes to turn things around especially after the 0-6 humiliating against Argentina. "It's better that this is happening now, before the World Cup, because we'll understand how to deal with it," he said. "Our backs are against the wall, and honestly, we couldn't have played a worse match than that. But we are committed to working on every one that needs improvement."

And he wants to make it happen step by step. "When you go on a trek, you don't look at the summit, you focus only on the next step. If we face Argentina again and lose, it won't be 8-0. It'll be 2-1, 3-1, or maybe 2-0. That game just spiralled out of control," added Hardik. While acknowledging these are tough times, Hardik is confident that the team will bounce back from the setback.

Squad for Hobart leg of Pro League: Goalkeepers: Suraj Karkera, Akashdeep Singh. **Defenders:** Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Sanjay, Sumit, Amandeep Lakra, Yashdeep Siwach, Peremarmi Chandra Baby. **Midfielders:** Rajinder Singh, Manmeet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Hardik Singh, Mohanjeet Ratichandra Singh, Vishnu Kant Singh, Raj Kumar Pal. **Forwards:** Abhishek, Shilanand Lakra, Mandeep Singh, Amjeet Singh Hunal, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Angad Bir Singh, Mandeep Singh

SACHIDANANDA SPARKLES

Sachidananda S netted four goals as Mysore Vijayanagara FC scored a 9-2 win over Bangalore Warriors FC in the BDFA 'B' division football league in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Sachith HS struck a hat-trick, while Gagan R Patil and Shorathan Singh scored a goal apiece.

Results 'B' Div: Group B: FC Mangalore 5 lost to Mohammad Fawaz (I) 40+2, Madhav KM 58, Mohammad Shahabid 62, Yongyanlam Peter TA, Akarsh NG 69+3 bt William FC (I) Vinang Dhara Ellis FC 2 (Ellis Jacob Elvish 45, Lotchungam Emil Vung 75) bt Shoodoor FC (I) Abishek Guha 35. Revive FC 5 (Gautam Singh 13, Mohammad Fayal 20, 26, Rehman Ali 36, 53) bt Bangalore FC 2 (Nishant Jagannath Sutar 12, Kaushik Patil 80+1). **Group A:** Mysore Vijayanagara FC 9 (Sachidananda S 4, 12, 48, 52, Gagan R Patil 37, Sachith HS 42, 68, 79, Shorathan Singh 72) bt Bangalore Warriors FC 2 (Prabhakaran 24, Ajay A 60). **Today's matchup 'B' Div:** Technico FF vs AGORO FC (FDR ceni), Gimlet FC vs Sree Gajanana FC (12.30 am), Rock Child Kumagalura FC vs Jawahar Union FC (1.30 pm), Nadu FC vs Elite FC (3.30 pm). PNB

BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 42 BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 38 | PRICE ₹5

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER | To subscribe call 1800 1200 1844 or visit subscribe.timesofindia.com

Spain's PM Pedro Sanchez says his govt will ask prosecutors to probe X, Meta and TikTok for possible offences related to AI-generated child sexual abuse material

Get match day ready

With your AI cricket companion

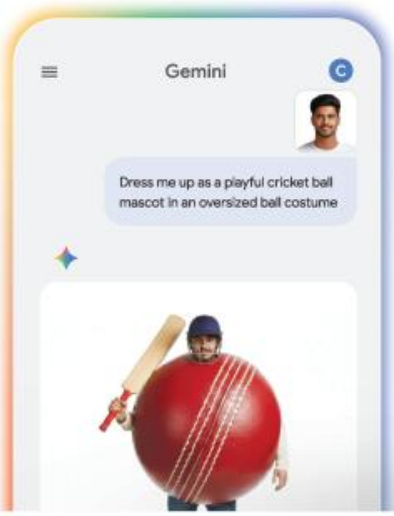
ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP INDIA & SRI LANKA 2026

Google Gemini

Scan to experience cricket like never before

Explore cricket from every angle

Google Gemini



Show your crazy, win match tickets

Create your crazy fan look, tag @googleindia on social and win a ticket to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026

Know the stars behind the stats

Dive into player insights and fun facts in one place

Scan the QR codes

to experience the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 like never before

BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 42 | BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF BANGALORE TIMES

JESSE JACKSON, A PROTEGE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AND 2-TIME PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WHO LED CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT FOR DECADES, DIES AT 84 18

Development not at cost of health, environment, says SC

Nixes Relaxed Norms For Industrial Units

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court has ruled that development isn't an absolute goal and that the right to a clean environment, which is part of the right to life, cannot be traded off with economic benefits.

Declining permission for change of land for a cement factory to come up at Sangrur, Punjab, close to farms and a school, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta also quashed Central Pollution Control Board's revised industrial sector categorisation issued in Jan 2025, in which a "stand-alone grinding unit without captive power plant" was put in 'orange' category from 'red', allowing these near inhabited areas.

Writing the judgment, Justice Nath said, "Economic development and industrial growth are legitimate and important objectives... However, in a constitutional framework founded on rule of law, development isn't an abstract or absolute goal. It's conditioned by the non-derogable obligation to protect life, health and environmental integrity."

"Development that undermines these foundational values ceases to be constitutionally permissible development. When developmental activity poses a credible risk to human health or environmental safety, regulatory frameworks must err on the side of protection," he said.

▶'Mostly irreversible', P 7

IN THE COURTS

➤ **Surviving partner** in mutual suicide pact has to be **punished for abetment**, says SC, upholds conviction of **Telugu actress Pratyusha**'s boyfriend for her death in 2002. Both had taken poison together | P 5

➤ Guj police job aspirants move HC, **seek remeasurement of their height** after being declared 'short of minimum requirement'. Some claim they cleared the criterion in previous recruitment cycles and argue they **couldn't have shrunk since then**

➤ **Consensual relationship turning bitter does not amount to rape** solely due to a failed marriage promise, says Calcutta HC | P 6

➤ Allahabad HC stays criminal proceedings against a govt official, says **claims of a forceful relationship over a long period under the threat of viral videos, not sustainable** | P 6

Hate speech PIL 'targets' BJP CMs: Court

Supreme Court on Tuesday criticised 12 "eminent" persons who together filed a PIL "targeting" chief ministers of BJP-ruled states for alleged hate speeches while making a plea for putting in place guidelines to restrain constitutional functionaries and bureaucrats from breaching fidelity to constitutional morality.

The petition, argued by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, was moved in the backdrop of alleged hate speeches by the Assam chief minister. Sibal said that the atmosphere had become "toxic" and urged the bench to frame guidelines to ensure accountability when political speeches vitiate fraternity. P 10

Loosening pyjama string is 'attempt to rape': SC sets aside HC ruling

SC on Tuesday ruled that groping a female and untying her pyjama string constitutes "attempt to rape" and set aside Allahabad HC's controversial judgment last March terming the offence as not "attempt to rape" but "preparation to commit rape", which attracts lesser punishment, being categorised as outraging the modesty of a woman, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.**

HC's 2025 judgment had created a furore, and SC had taken suo motu cognizance of the case after a letter by NGO 'We the Women' through advocate Shobha Gupta protested HC's casual treatment of the offence. P 5

Relief for Rahul as HC quashes BJP's defamation case over 2023 'graft' ad

Vasantha Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: In a big relief for Rahul Gandhi, Karnataka HC Tuesday quashed proceedings against the Congress MP in a defamation case filed by BJP on a "corruption rate card" advertisement against then state BJP govt in 2023.

Allowing a petition filed by the leader of the opposition in LS, Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav said continuation of proceedings would amount to abuse of process of law.

The court said, "Imputation itself is by way of innuendo, and such imputation is sought to be stretched to the party. Sans the tweet, the advertisement makes no reference to the party; rather (it) makes an imputation to the functionaries mentioned in the advertisement."

'NO EVIDENCE'

➤ BJP filed defamation case against Rahul Gandhi over a **'corruption rate card' ad against then BJP govt in 2023**

➤ In his petition, the Congress **MP said complainant failed to give documentary proof**

➤ **BJP complaint claimed that the accused made "...baseless** and irrational **allegations"**

CM Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar were arraigned as accused in the case. BJP's complaint had alleged that, in the advertisement given on May 5, 2023 in all mainstream newspapers, the accused made "fanciful, baseless, fomentorious, and irrational allegations" against the complainant party.

▶'Casual approach', P 3

Sunetra Pawar meets Fadnavis, seeks CBI probe into air crash

Mumbai: Maharashtra deputy CM Sunetra Pawar along with her party netas met CM Devendra Fadnavis Tuesday and demanded a CBI probe into the Jan 28 aircrash that killed NCP chief Ajit Pawar. NCP state chief Sunil Tatkare said the CM assured them that the state govt will communicate with the Union home ministry in this regard. "The govt has already initiated a probe by independent agencies and has said it will order a CBI investigation. We feel a probe by the central agency would be comprehensive," Tatkare said.

Sunetra, accompanied by NCP netas Tatkare, Praful Patel, Hasan Mushrif, and her son Parth Pawar, handed over to the CM a letter seeking a CBI probe. PTI, AGENCIES

▶Nature of crash, P 7

TOI HEALTH+

What too much low dose to your metabolic health

Why adults shouldn't ignore their vaccine shots

Hitting menopause? Here's how your body shows signs

+ much more, on P 8

Guj electoral rolls shrink 13% to 4.4 crore voters after 77 lakh deletions

Himanshu Kaushik
@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: Gujarat's electoral strength contracted 13.4% to 4.4 crore voters on completion of a special intensive revision (SIR) that saw 77 lakh-odd names being deleted from the 2025 rolls and 9.6 lakh new electors getting added to the final list published Tuesday.

The double-digit percentage decline caps two rounds of scrutiny, starting with 73.7 lakh deletions when the draft rolls were published last Dec after updating mortality records, migration data and incorrect registrations. Another 3.9 lakh names were removed before the final rolls were put out. Between the publication of the draft and final rolls, the electorate expanded 1.3%, a large section of them first-time voters.

Around 40 lakh voters in the unrevised 2025 rolls were found to have permanently shifted, 18 lakh were dead, 9.8 lakh couldn't be traced to their registered addresses, and 3.8 lakh had duplicate voter cards.

▶Anothe 1.9L names, P 7

49L VOTERS IN AHD

➤ Ahmedabad tops the state with 49.1 lakh voters in the final rolls, up from 48 lakh in the draft electoral list for Gujarat

➤ **Surat, Vadodara and Rajkot reported substantial additions,** reflecting migration patterns and youth enrolment

➤ Another **1.9 lakh voters' names in Gujarat have been omitted** for other reasons

24 CA sites for Cong Bhavans; BJP alleges scam

Karnataka govt has allotted 24 civic amenity (CA) sites — collectively valued at Rs 77 crore — across several urban local bodies to build Congress Bhavans. While BJP levelled land-grab charges, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar defended the decision. He has set a target of constructing 100 Congress Bhavans across the state and had planned to lay foundation stone later this year. P 4

Pak youths who fled juvenile home held

Less than 24 hours after their escape, two Pakistan nationals who fled a juvenile observation home in Jammu's RS Pura area on Monday were held at Ambala Cantonment railway station by Haryana STF. TNN

203kg of suspected narcotics seized

Gujarat ATS and the Coast Guard have apprehended two Iranians, who navigated a speedboat from Iran to Indian waters, attempting to smuggle more than 200kg of a suspected narcotic substance. P 5

Landfill blocks 150 trucks, city waste disposal to be hit

Garbage clearance in Bengaluru is likely to take a hit with villages around a landfill site in Bellahalli blocking more than 150 trucks since Monday. Villagers are demanding release of development funds amid allegations that waste-disposal operations have resulted in recurring public health concerns, including frequent outbreaks of infectious diseases. P 2

Cricket greats bat for Imran, appeal for medical care and better jail conditions

Gaurav Gupta
@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: Fourteen former international captains from five heavyweight cricketing nations have made an emotional appeal to the Pakistan govt seeking proper treatment for former Pakistan prime minister and its 1992 World Cup-winning captain Imran Khan.

The one-page appeal is signed by Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Michael Atherton, Allan Border, Michael Brearley, Greg Chappell, Ian Chappell, Belinda Clark, David Gower, Kim Hughes, Nasser Hussain, Clive Lloyd, Steve Waugh and former India coach and New Zealand captain John Wright.

"We, the undersigned former captains of our national cricket teams, write with deep concern regarding the reported treatment and incarceration conditions of Imran Khan, the distinguished former captain of Pakistan and a legendary figure in world cricket," the statement read.

Expressing alarm over reports of Imran's failing eyesight and abysmal prison conditions, the captains urged authorities to ensure "immediate, adequate and ongoing medical attention from qualified specialists of his choosing," along with "humane detention conditions, regular family visits and fair, transparent access to legal processes".

▶'Rivalry ends...', P 22

NO PAK SIGNATURE

➤ **14 ex-captains,** including **Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev,** Allan Border, Greg Chappell, and Steve Waugh, have signed the appeal

➤ **No Pak ex-captains have signed;** meanwhile Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Shahid Afridi **have separately urged proper medical care** for Imran, via social media

Left in cab, boy, 4, reunited with parents in 1hr

A four-year-old boy left behind by his family in a cab in Bengaluru was reunited with his parents within one hour in a swift police operation Saturday. When the family deboarded the cab, they forgot about the boy asleep in the rear seat. On being informed of the incident, cops collected CCTV footage, worked the phones and contacted the driver, who handed over the boy in an hour. P 3

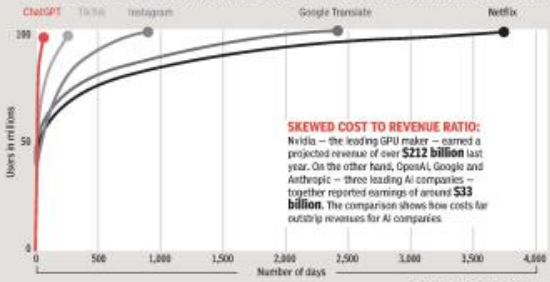
AI boom is real, but who gains from it?

AI's adoption has surged at a record pace, but usage varies by profession, gender and level of work. While general-purpose AI tools have found a footing at the workplace, task-specific GenAI has struggled to achieve implementation

AI'S GROWTH CURVE LIKE NO OTHER

ChatGPT, which now has 900 million users, hit 100 million users in just two months. Platforms like TikTok and Instagram took much longer to reach 100 million users

TIME IT TOOK COMPANIES TO REACH 100 MILLION USERS

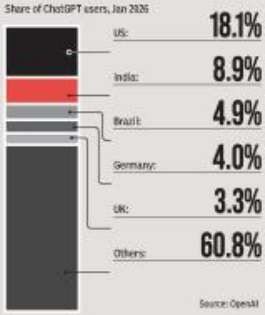


Source: BBC, CBS, media reports

INDIA EMERGES AS A CHATGPT POWERHOUSE

In a recent interview, Sam Altman said ChatGPT now has over 100 million active users every week in India. That makes India one of the platform's most engaged markets after US

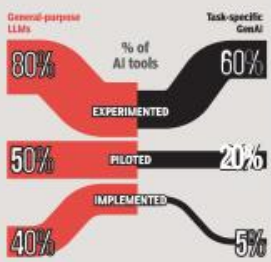
Share of ChatGPT users, Jan 2026



Source: OpenAI

TASK-SPECIFIC AI STRUGGLES TO SCALE

The success rate of general-purpose AI is way higher than task-specific AI tools, with just 5% of models reaching implementation stage. Major barriers include unwillingness to adopt, quality concerns, poor user experience, etc



Source: MIT

WHO'S REALLY USING AI AT WORK?

AI is increasingly being used for repetitive work like organising, scheduling and reporting. But it's executives, not frontline workers, who are putting it to heavier use

Time saved each week using AI

Category	Workers	Executives
No time	40%	2%
Less than 2 hours	27%	5%
2-4 hours	20%	16%
4-8 hours	9%	33%
8-12 hours	3%	24%
More than 12 hours	2%	19%

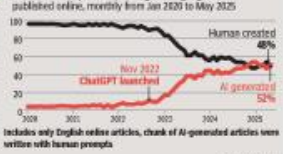
Source: WSJ

THE RISE OF AI-GENERATED NEWS

In early 2020, almost every online article was written by a human. Since ChatGPT's launch in Nov 2022, the share of AI-generated articles has climbed sharply, overtaking human-written content in 2025

Share of articles written by humans and generated by AI

Based on a sample of 65,000 English-language articles published online, monthly from Jan 2020 to May 2025



Includes only English online articles, chunk of AI-generated articles were written with human prompts

Source: Axios

MEN LEAD IN WORKPLACE AI USE

AI use is highest in journalism and marketing among women, but drops sharply in law, finance and teaching. Many are aware of AI, yet have never used it. Among men though, adoption is higher across nearly every profession, with clear majorities in several fields

Occupation	Women			Men		
	Used	Aware, Never Used	Total	Used	Aware, Never Used	Total
Journalist	70%	30%	100%	79%	21%	100%
Software Developer	64%	34%	98%	82%	18%	100%
Marketing Professional	72%	26%	98%	81%	18%	99%
HR Professional	52%	45%	97%	74%	25%	99%
Teacher	41%	56%	97%	63%	35%	98%
Legal Professional	40%	56%	96%	63%	35%	98%
IT Support	56%	38%	94%	75%	24%	99%
Financial Advisor	26%	66%	92%	39%	57%	96%
Customer Service Rep	44%	44%	88%	71%	27%	98%
Office Clerk	32%	57%	89%	56%	39%	95%
Accountant & Auditor	28%	59%	87%	56%	41%	97%

Source: University of Chicago

Curated by **Richa Gandhi**